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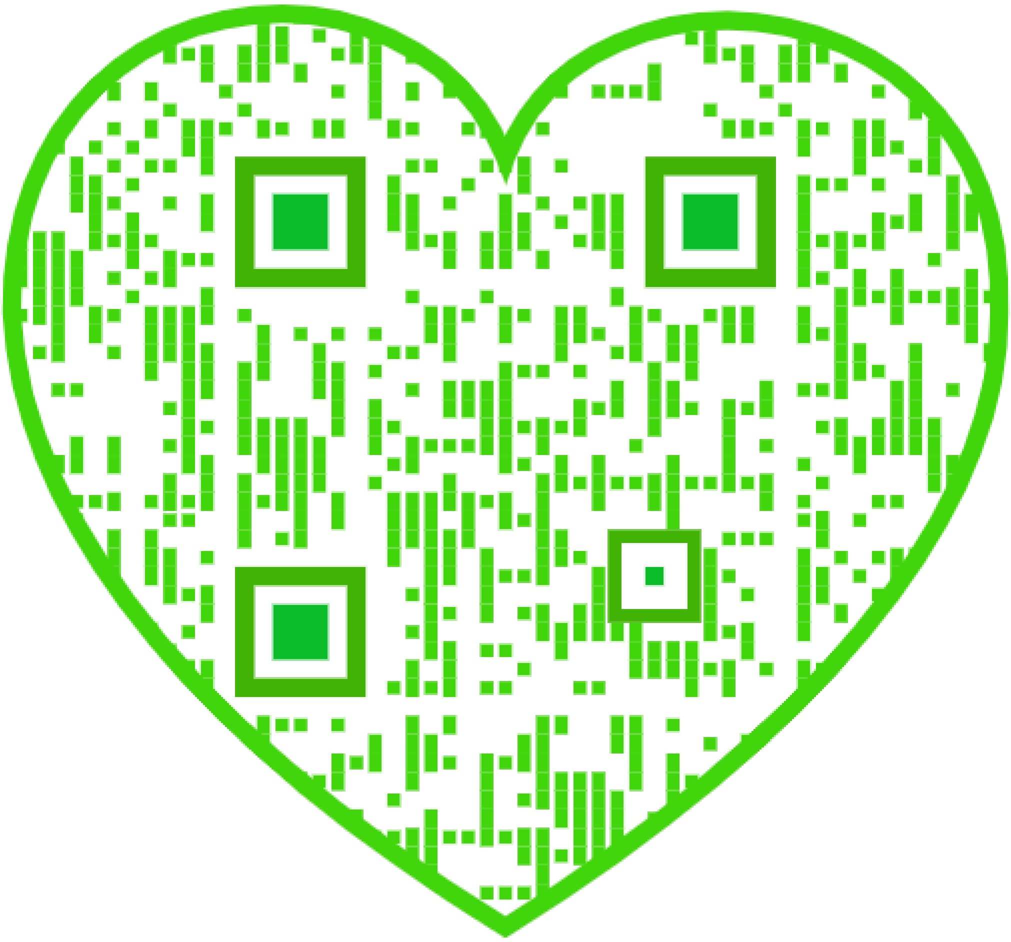
Caravan GUIDE TO CHOOSING, BUYING AND OWNING



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The ultimate guide to **choosing**, **buying** & **owning** your perfect caravan

Welcome

Dave Porter / Alamy Stock Photo

MACAULAY NICHOL EDITOR

Welcome to the start of your journey into the fantastic world of caravans!

We know it can be confusing and even stressful when starting to consider buying a new tourer. That's why we've created this guide – to answer all your questions and take you through every step of choosing and buying, so you get the perfect caravan, first time.

We not only highlight the standout winners in each category of the 2025 Out & About Live Caravan Awards, but also reveal a wide range of impressive new models that have caught our attention.

We also explain why it's vital you take care to choose the right layout, as well as provide you with all the other information you need to make informed decisions.

Trust us – there's a lot to explore, and the choices this year are better than ever.

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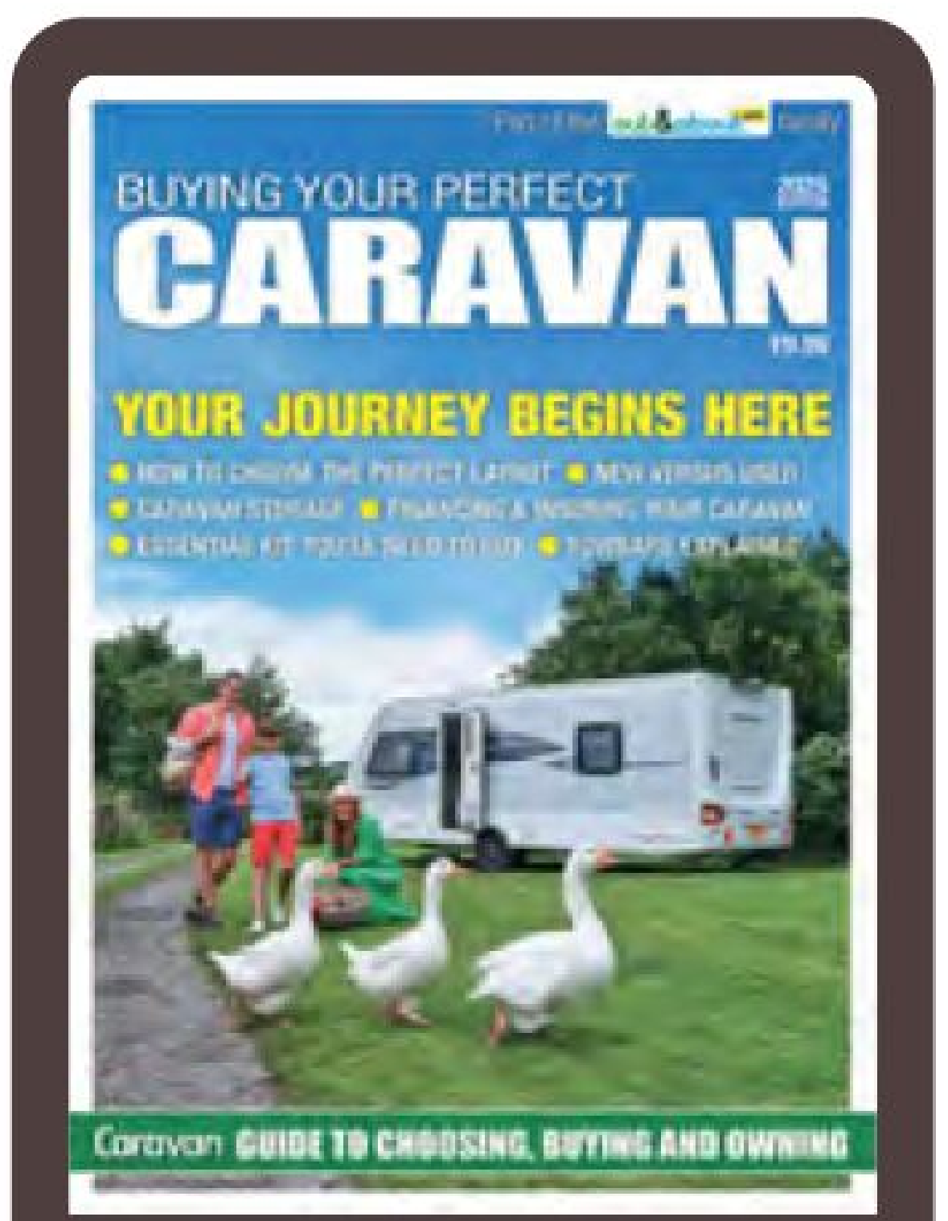
Lee Davey



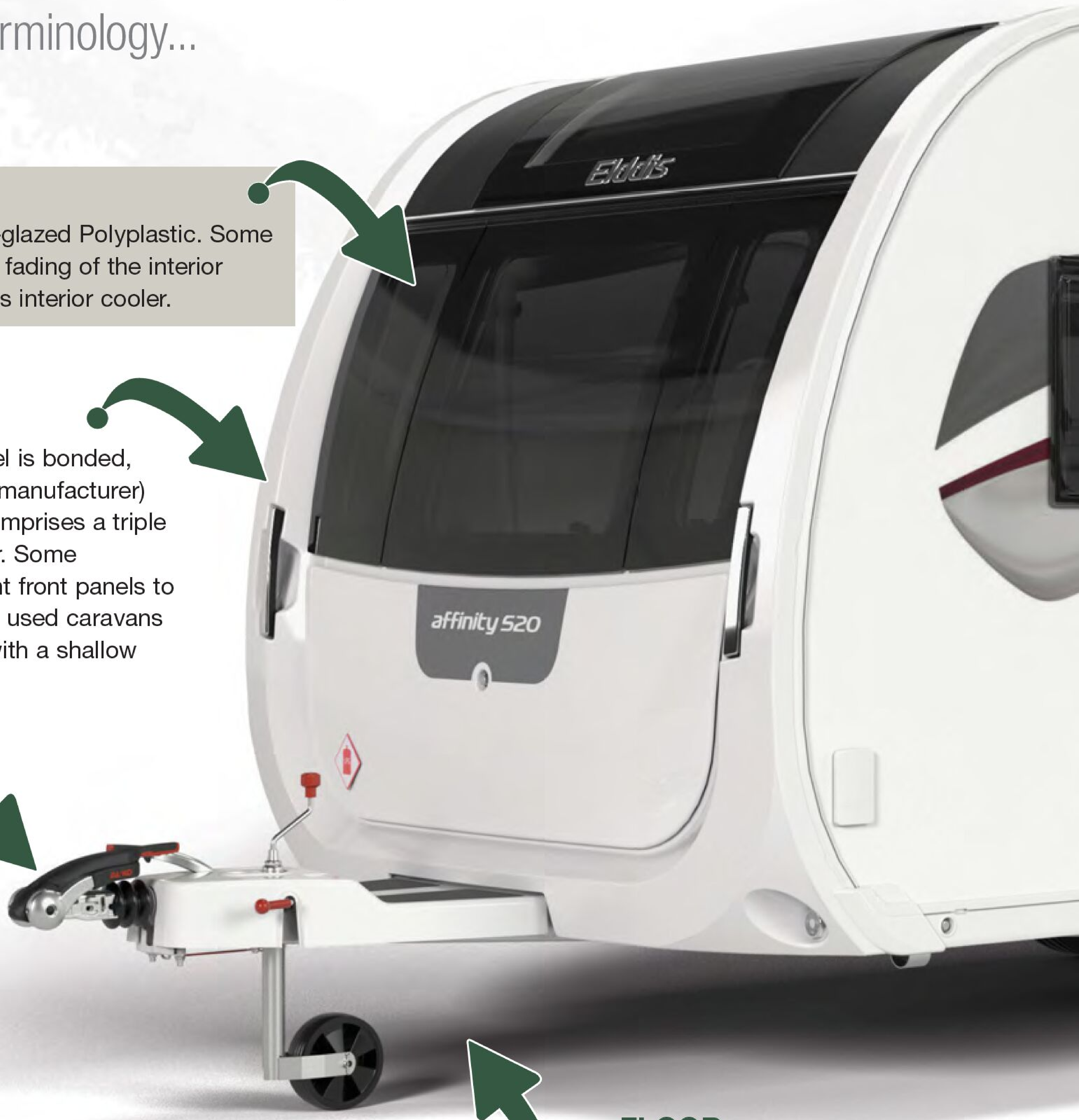
COVER
Swift Challenger Exclusive

Credit:
Swift Group

Anatomy of a **caravan exterior**

If you're buying your first caravan, there are lots of things you need to know. Here's a handy guide to some of the terminology...

ROOF
Of a similar construction to the side panels with GRP or aluminium outer skin and bracing struts to improve stiffness.



WINDOWS
These are usually made from double-glazed Polyplastic. Some are very slightly tinted to prevent sun fading of the interior fabrics and to help keep the caravan's interior cooler.

FRONT PANEL
Usually made from GRP, the front panel is bonded, bolted, or screwed (depending on the manufacturer) to the side walls and roof. It usually comprises a triple window and a large gas storage locker. Some manufacturers are now using full-height front panels to maximise interior headroom, but many used caravans will have three-quarter-height panels with a shallow rake towards the back.

TOW HITCH
This is what attaches to the towball on the back of your car and creates a secure, articulated connection for towing. Many recently built caravans also benefit from an integrated stabiliser that reduces the chance of 'snaking' while towing.

WATER HEATER
The vast majority of tourers have a water heater which works rather like a large kettle – providing around 10 litres of hot water for washing/showering. Like the heater, it will, in most caravans, run on gas or electricity.

A-FRAME
This is effectively the forward part of the chassis upon which the tow hitch is mounted. It also houses the jockey wheel to assist hitching and unhitching. As a general rule of thumb, the longer the A-frame, the better the caravan will tow.

FLOOR
Caravan floors are made from treated wood or plastic/foam composites to form a rigid base. As the floor is vulnerable to dampness from the elements, Erwin Hymer Group has introduced a GRP undertray to protect it; Swift's SMART HT construction is completely wood-free.

HEATING

Blown-air heaters distribute warm air through the caravan to keep it comfortable in cool weather. The most common blown-air heating systems can be run on gas or electricity, and are effectively large fan heaters which pump hot air around the caravan via ducts. The Alde heating system, fitted to upmarket caravans, is a hot water-based system with radiators providing the heat source.

ROOFLIGHTS

Polyplastic rooflights provide natural light inside and maintain good ventilation. When opened, they provide additional airflow through the caravan.

AERIAL

When properly aligned, the aerial should allow you to get a reasonable picture using a Freeview set-top box or digital TV.

520
affinity

SIDE PANELS

These are usually constructed from strong, lightweight composites with an aluminium or GRP outer skin. Side panels incorporate insulating material to maintain an even temperature inside, when exposed to extremes of climate. GRP provides a damage-resistant outer, and modern GRP is less prone to cracking and crazing than it used to be.

REAR PANEL

This is usually a GRP moulding which may incorporate a window and housings for the rear lights.

SHOWER

Showers in caravans are a convenience you'll appreciate – far warmer than walking to a site's shower buildings in cold weather. Most pumps provide good, consistent water pressure.

CHASSIS

This is the rigid structure upon which the caravan area sits. Made from tough galvanised steel, it offers a sturdy platform on which to support the body. In the UK market, Al-Ko is the main supplier.

AXLE AND WHEELS

Caravans have either a single axle mounted roughly at the mid-point of the chassis, or twin axles (larger caravans) for improved stability. The overall length and weight of a caravan generally dictates whether it has single or twin axles, but with four wheels in contact with the road, the latter are widely thought to have better towing characteristics.

TOILET AND CASSETTE

Many caravan toilets have an electronic flush. The waste is held in a sealed cassette into which you put chemicals to break it down. They will only need emptying every day or so. On this model it is on the offside.

Anatomy of a caravan interior

Get to know your caravan and it will soon become a home from home

BEDS

Caravan beds come in all shapes and sizes. You can choose from bunks, twin singles, fixed double bed (island or French-style – transverse or longitudinal), make-up front doubles and make-up dining areas. The world of zzzzzzzzzs is your oyster!

Elddis Crusader Tempest

Richard Chapman

DINING

Caravans have a lounge area with room for a dining table, which you'll find folded up, in its own cabinet or sometimes under a bed. Putting it away means you have plenty of space when it's not meal time. There are two other common dining layout options. One is the side dining area. The other is the rear dining area, which you find in some family caravans. These offer eating, playing and sleeping space in a self-contained area.

Bailey Phoenix GT75 762

STORAGE

Shower room storage is found in cabinets under the washbasin, plus a wall cabinet. Most shower rooms have plenty of shelving. But don't forget to empty the shelves before towing.

Coachman Lusso III

Richard Chapman

OVEN

Caravan ovens are very efficient. This is one caravan feature that makes a tourer a true home from home, in terms of convenience.

Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Pamplona

Richard Chapman

Coachman VIP 575

Richard Chapman

BASIN

Washbasins vary enormously in size and design. This contemporary one adds domestic style and cachet to a caravan washroom. Others may be shallower, and come in a variety of shapes.

Sprite Quattro MB Exclusive

Richard Chapman

SIDE TABLE

A good feature for a family – the children get their own table for both eating and playing. These side dining areas can be converted to a single bed or into two bunk beds, using a fold-down base.

John Chapman

FRIDGE

Caravans are fitted with a fridge which will run from the 12V car battery when towing, 230V mains hook-up, or on gas. This one can be opened from both sides.

Elddis Crusader Borealis

John Chapman

CUPBOARDS

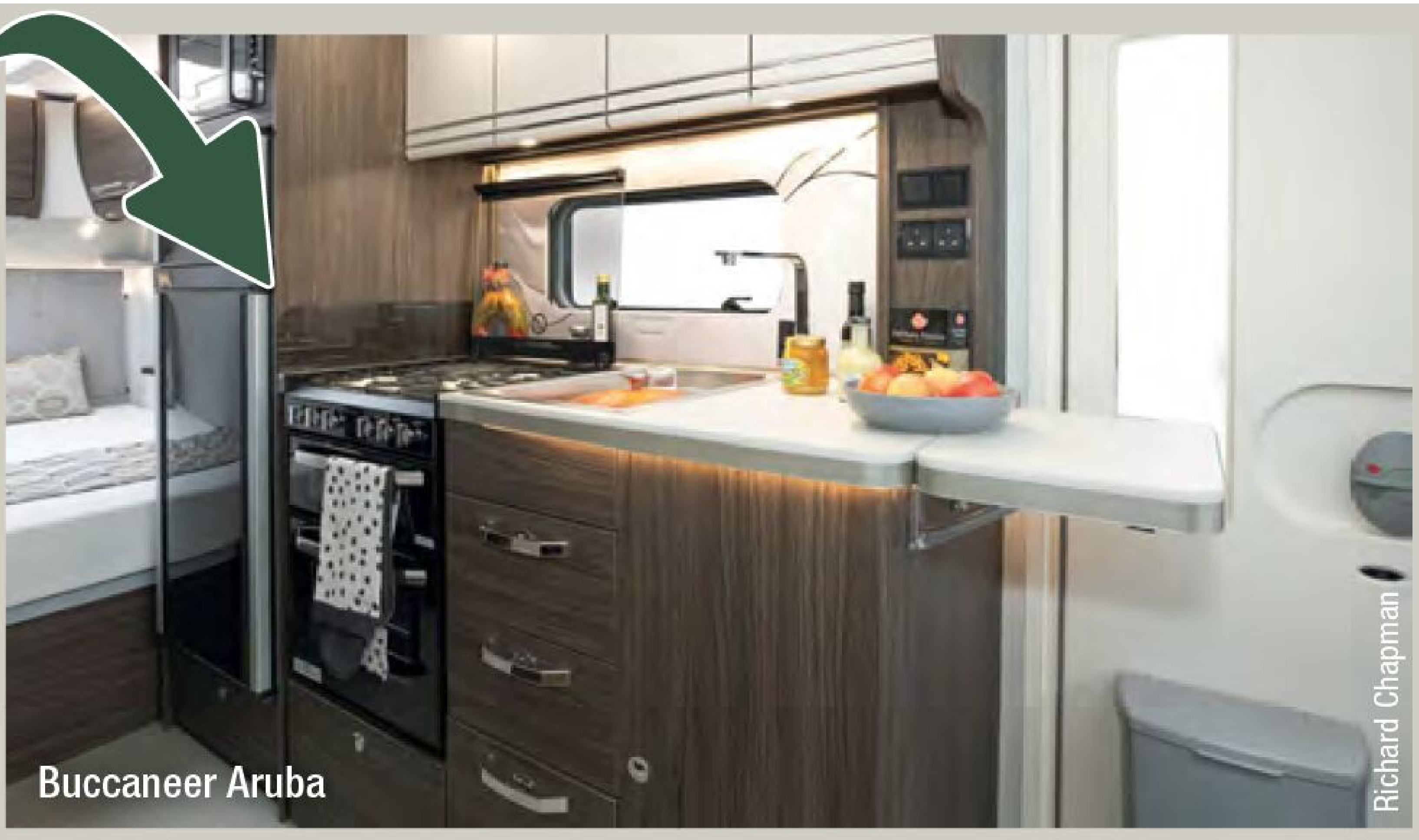
You'll usually find metal racks for plates and mugs in top kitchen cupboards. Many caravans have positive catches on top cupboards; these prevent them from opening when you tow over speed humps and potholes!

CARPET

Carpets add a sense of domestic luxury to a caravan. All but the most budget tourers feature removable carpets, which are shaped to fit the floor space exactly. The better-quality carpets have a deeper pile for warmth and comfort. They can easily be removed for cleaning, or taken out if you think they may get dirty or damaged due to servicing/repairs, or muddied if people don't take off shoes!.

WORK SURFACE

Culinary organisation is needed in caravans, as you have to make the most of the work surfaces. If you like cooking, pick a caravan with a generous amount of kitchen work surface. Many have fold-down extensions to augment space when you need it.



Buccaneer Aruba

Richard Chapman

Swift Basecamp 3

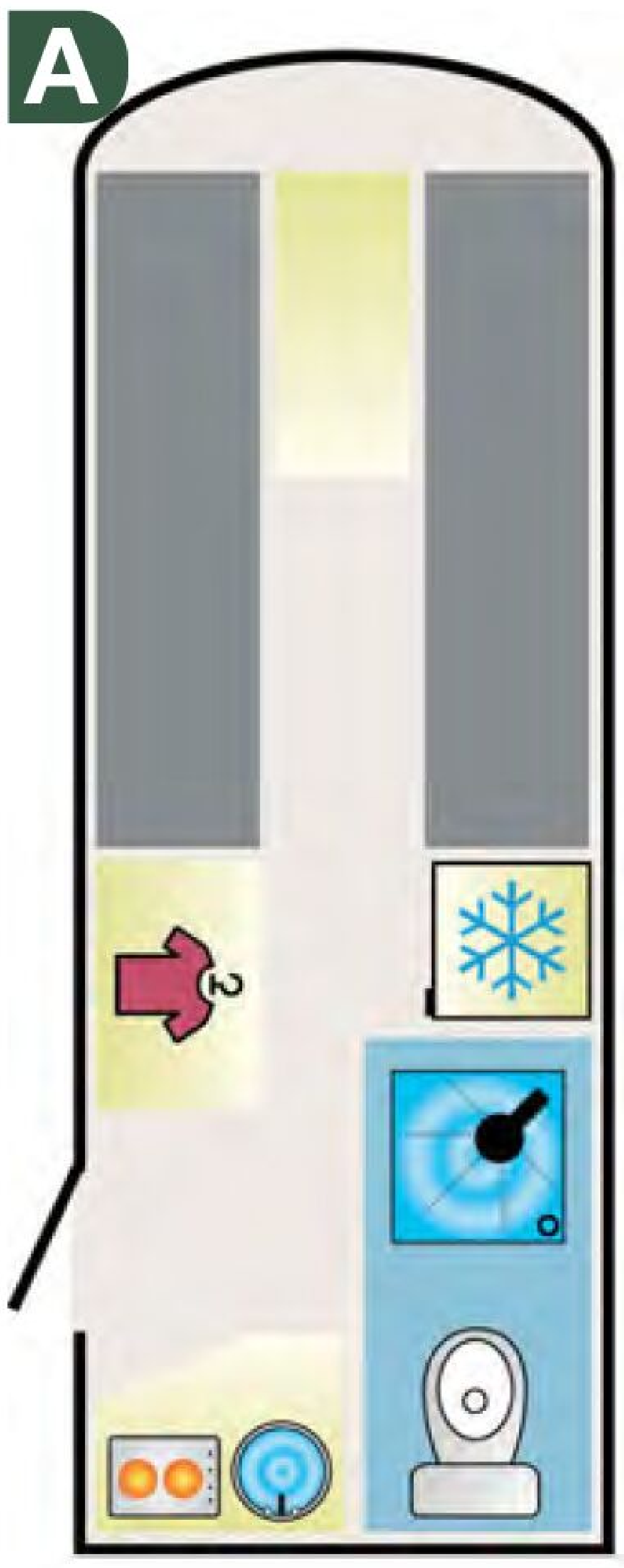
Richard Chapman

HOB

Three or four gas burners, or three burners plus one mains hotplate – caravan hobs come in a variety of types (Adrias have three burners in a line). Keen cooks will appreciate the extra workspace the hob cover provides, when it is down, too.

Caravan **layouts**

A



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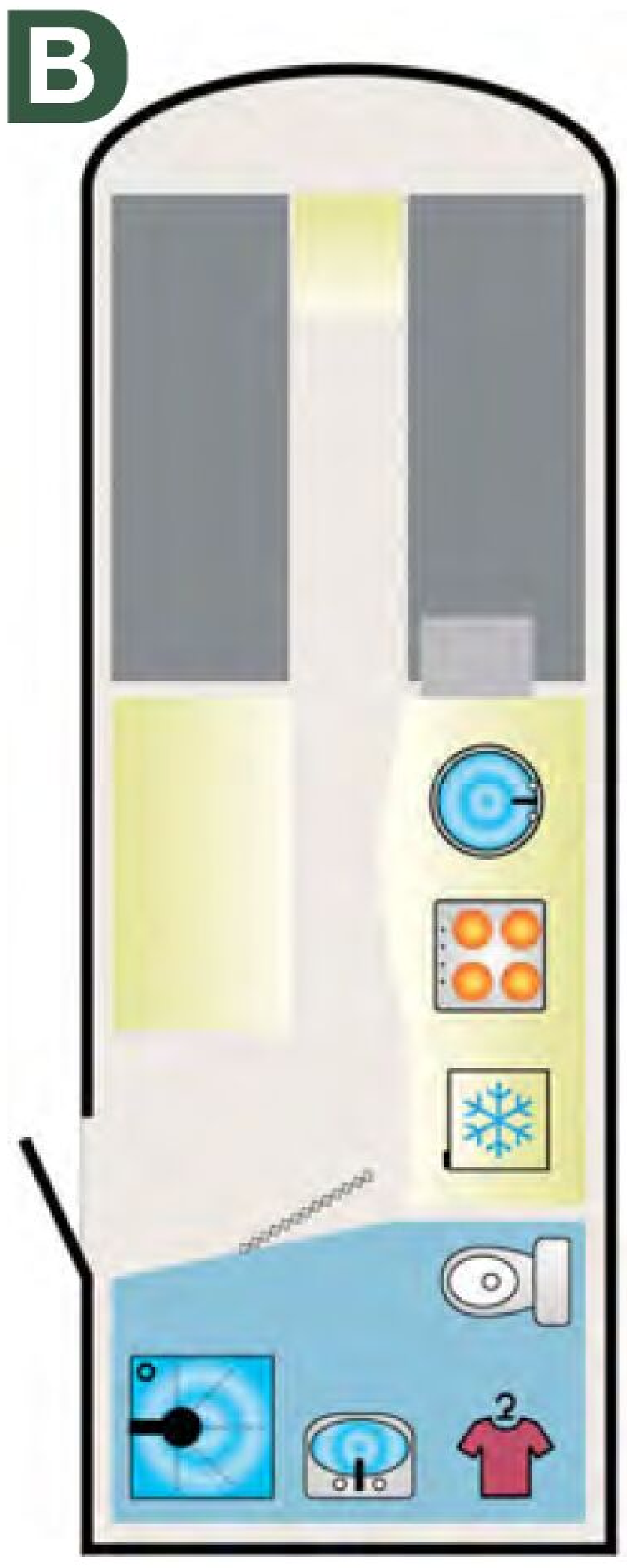

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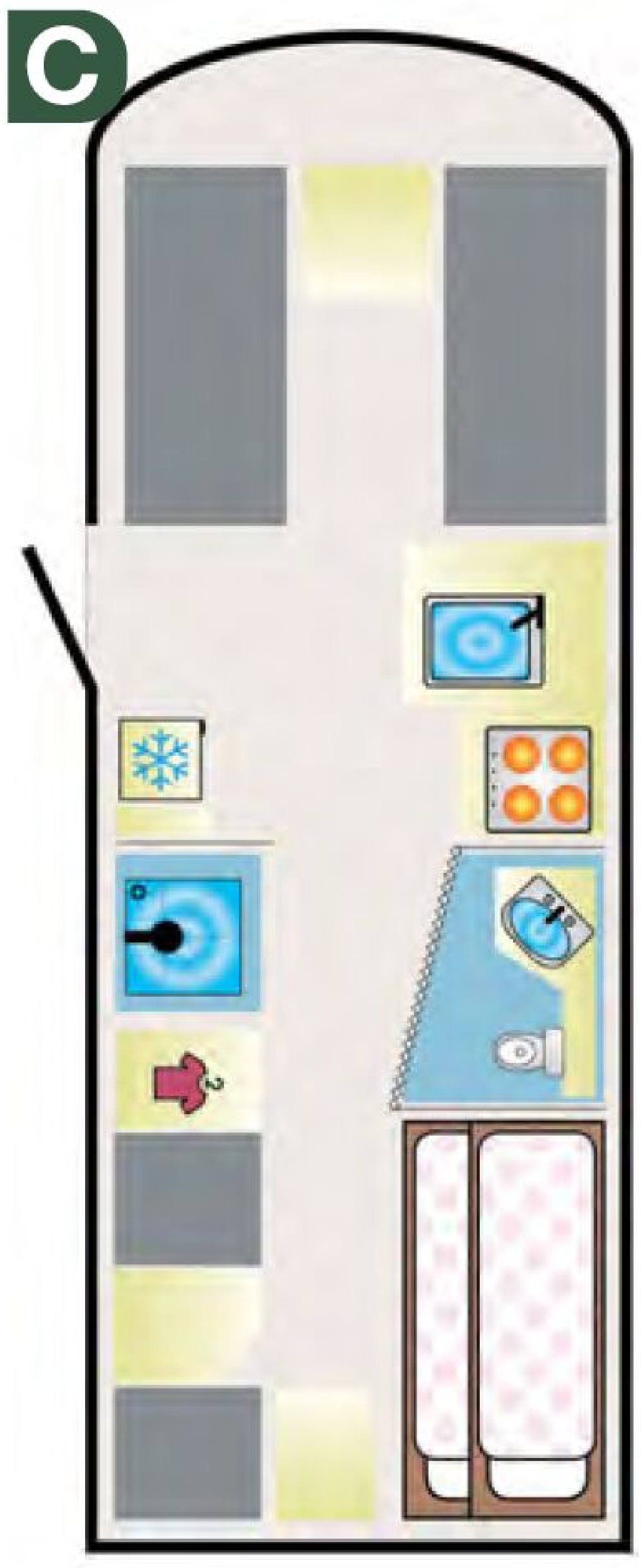

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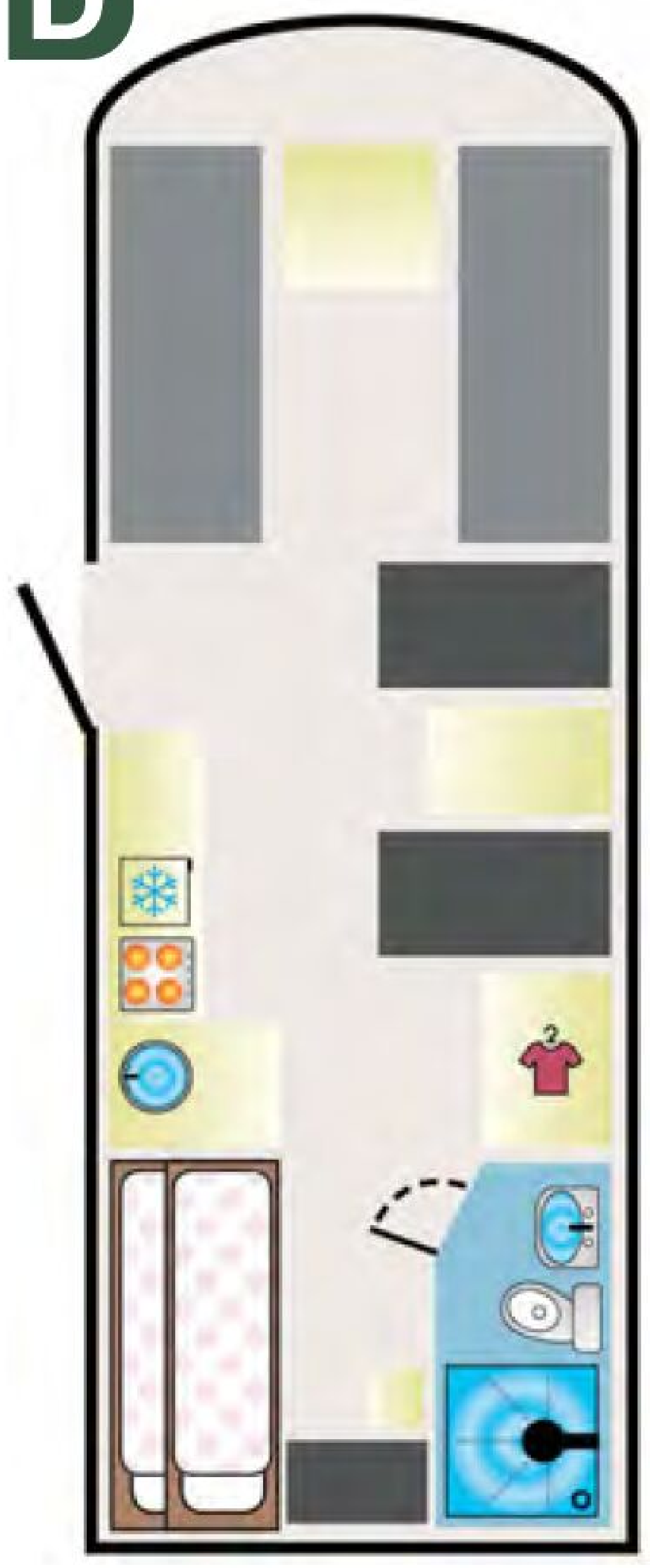

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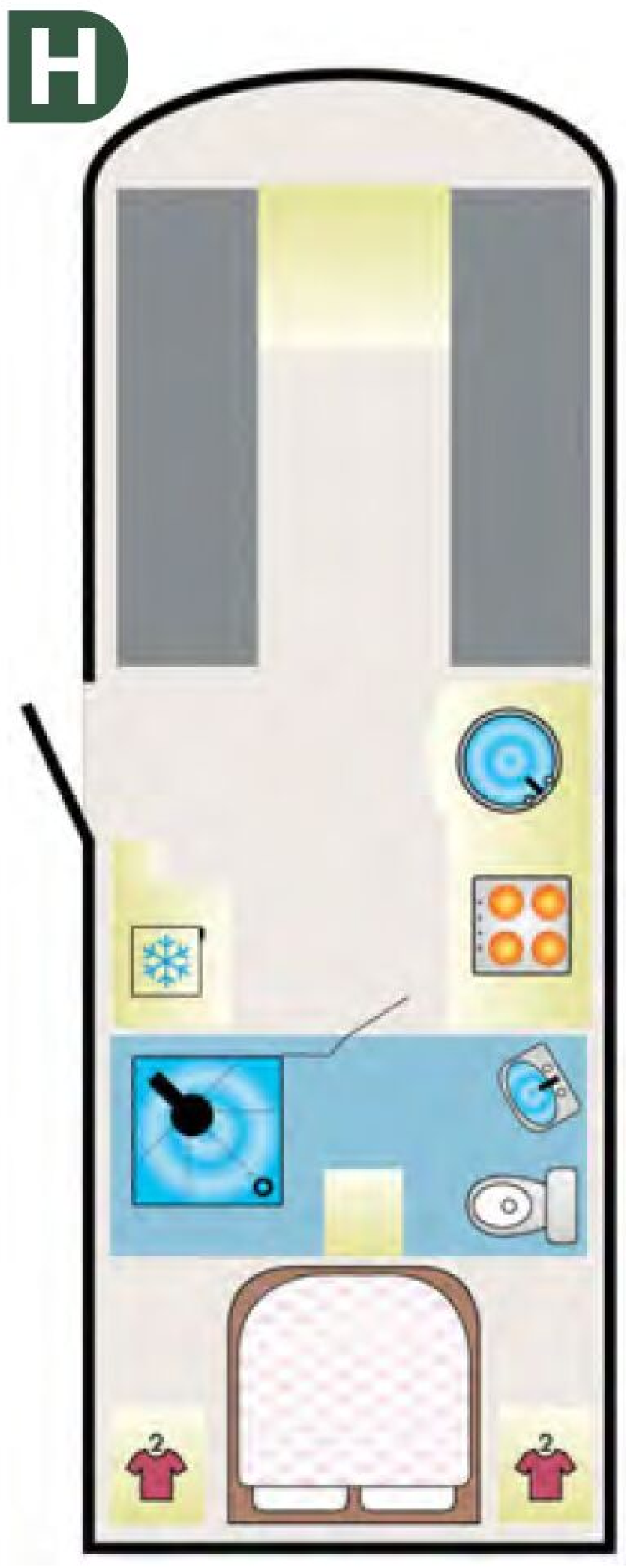

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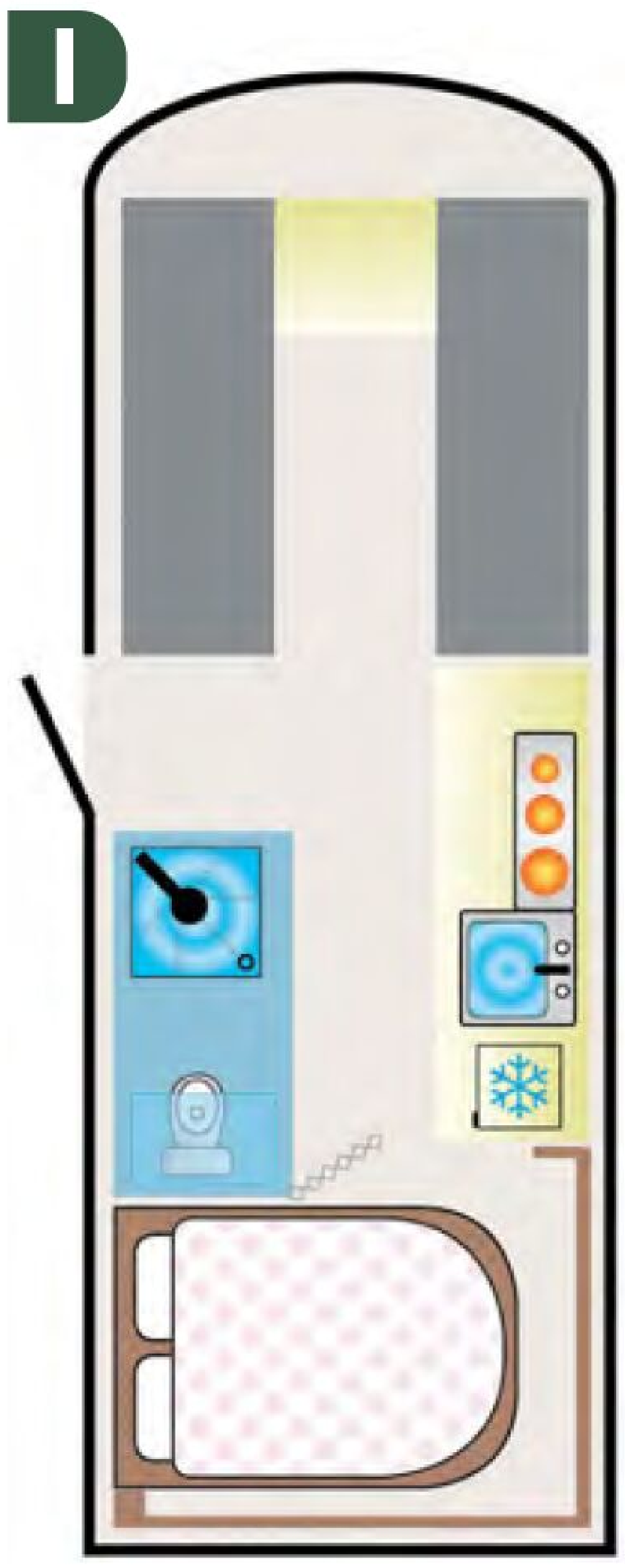

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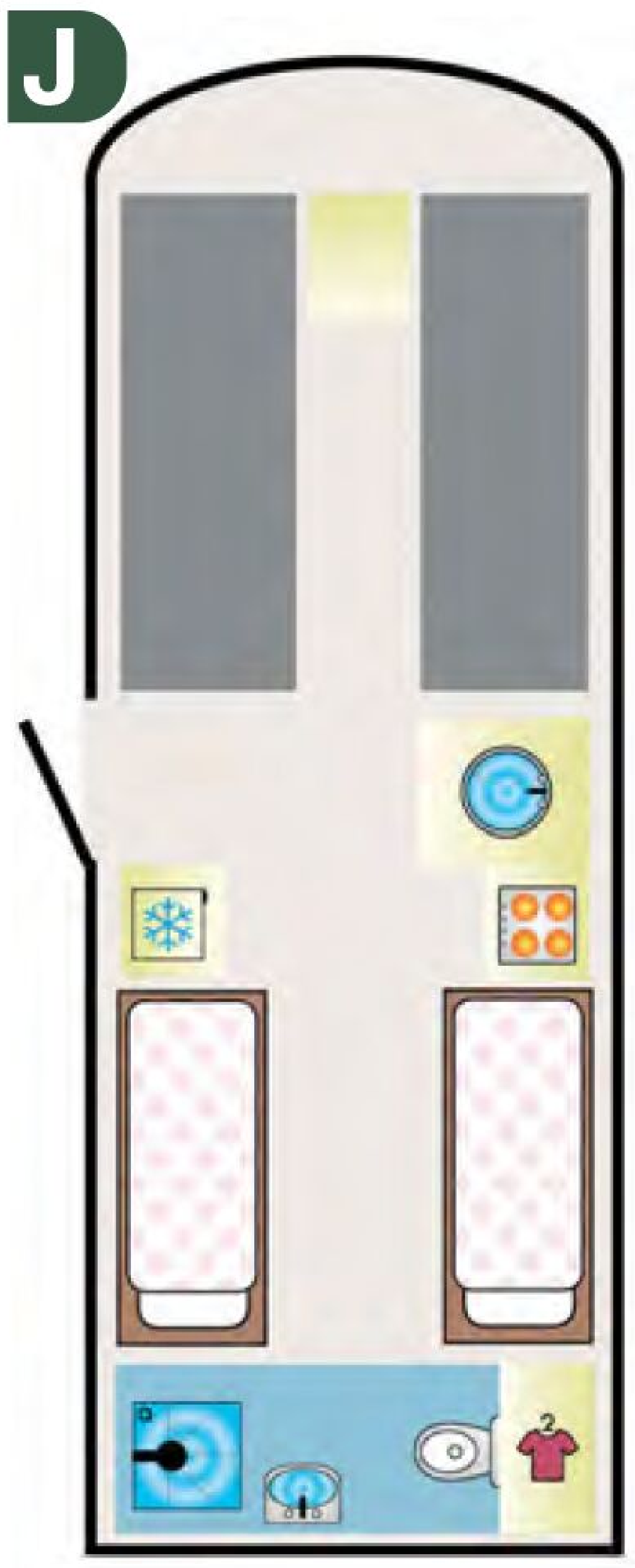

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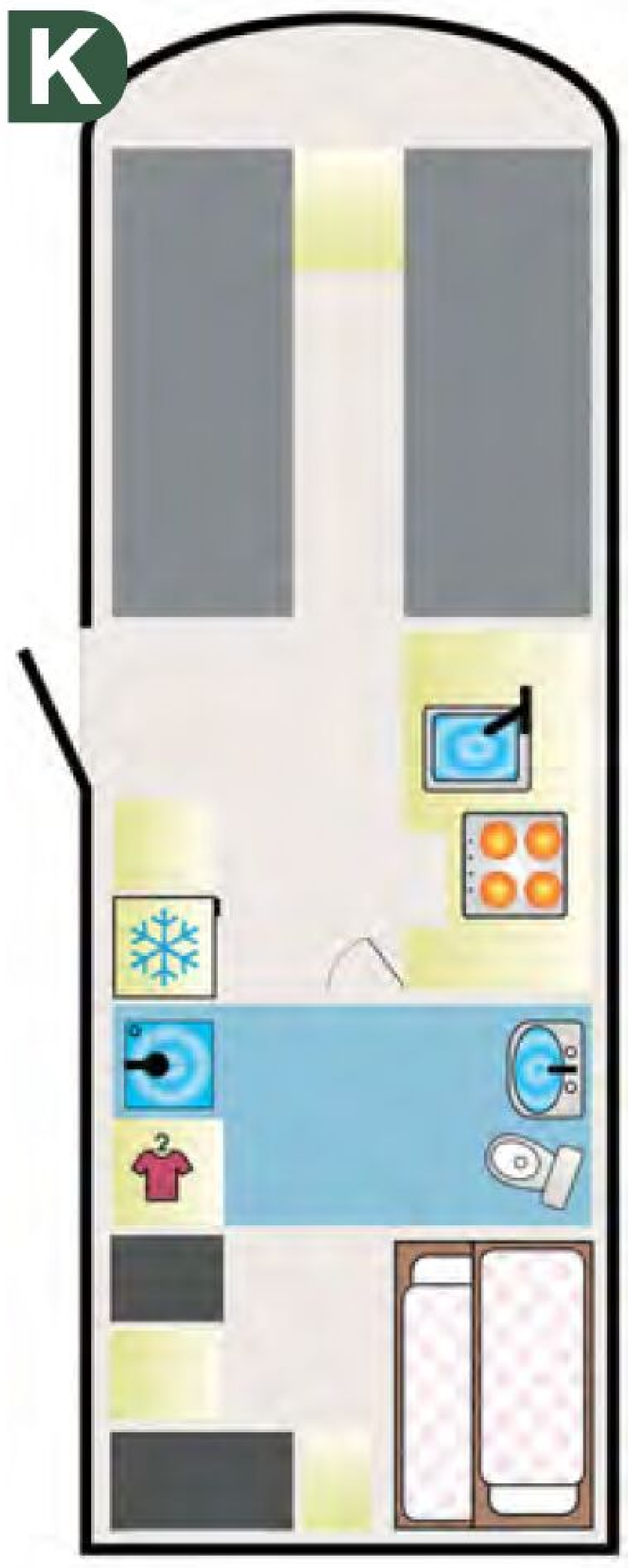
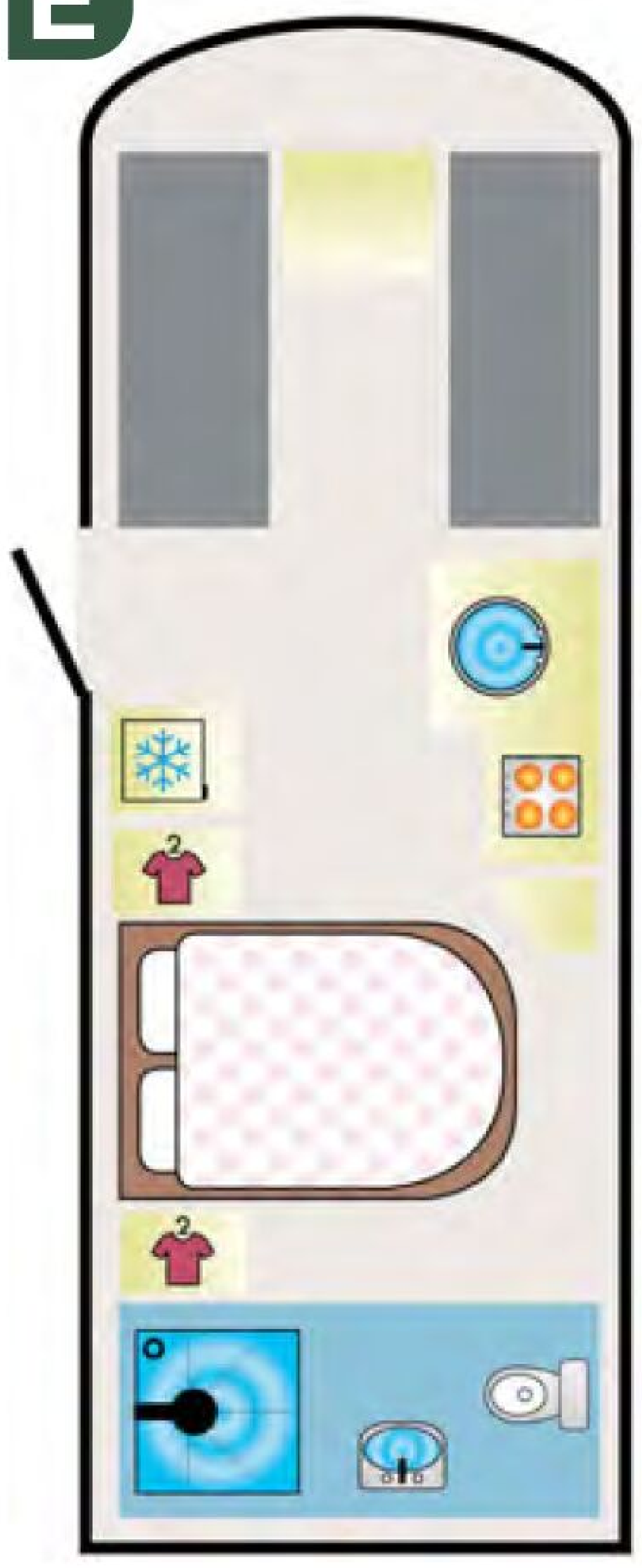


Getting the right layout is the most important decision you will make when buying a caravan – choose wisely and you'll be happy for years…

E



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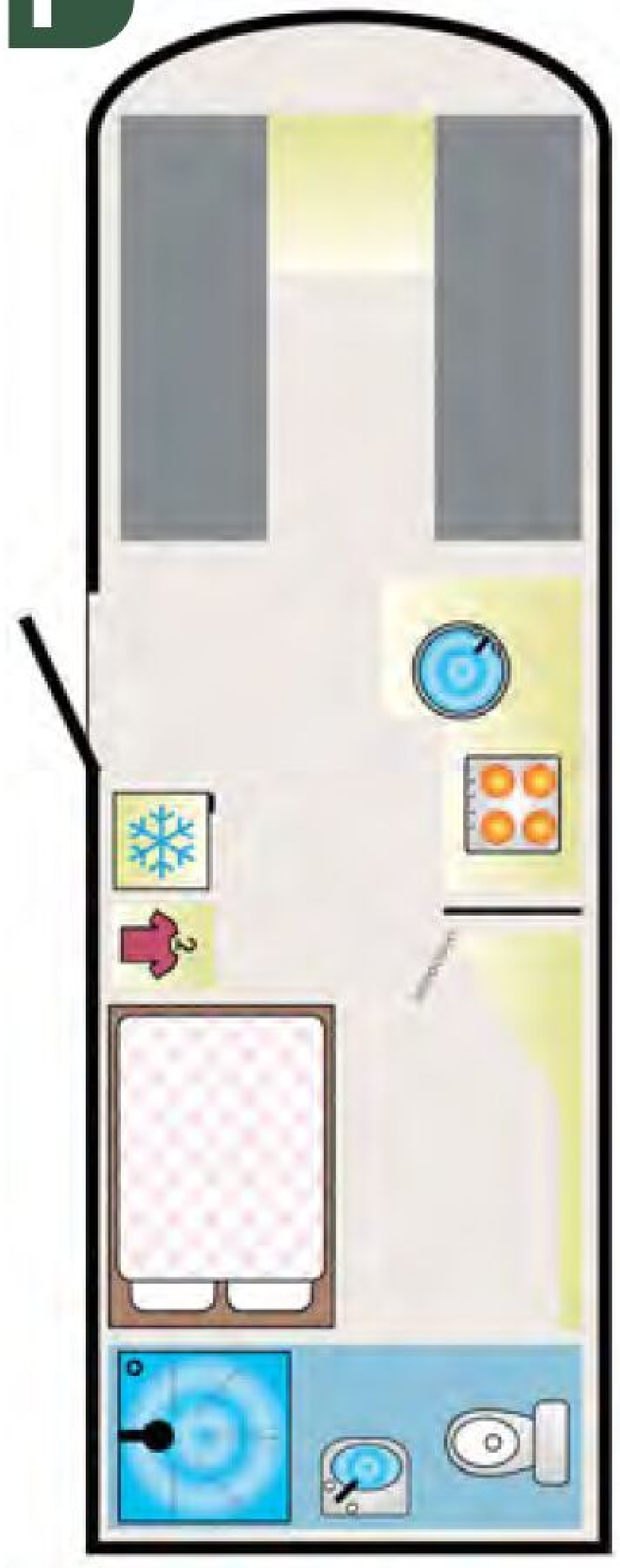

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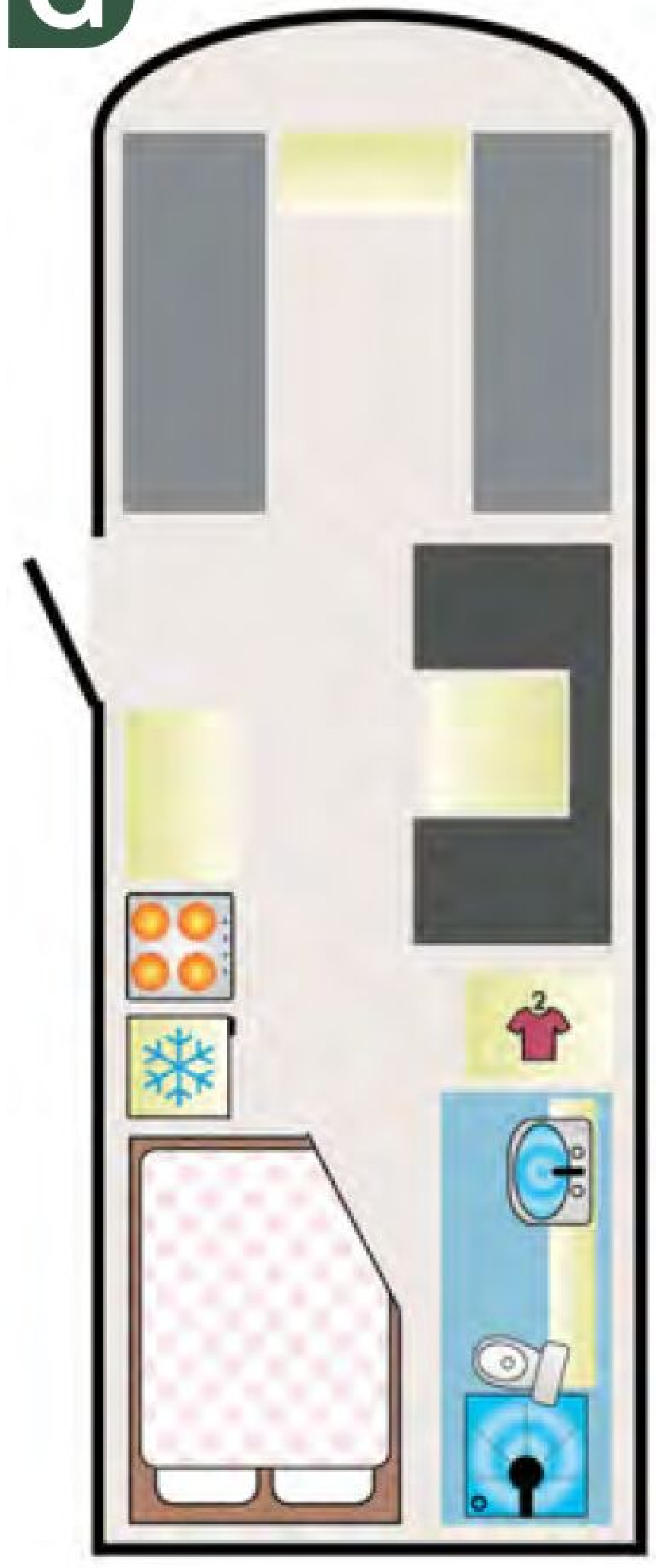

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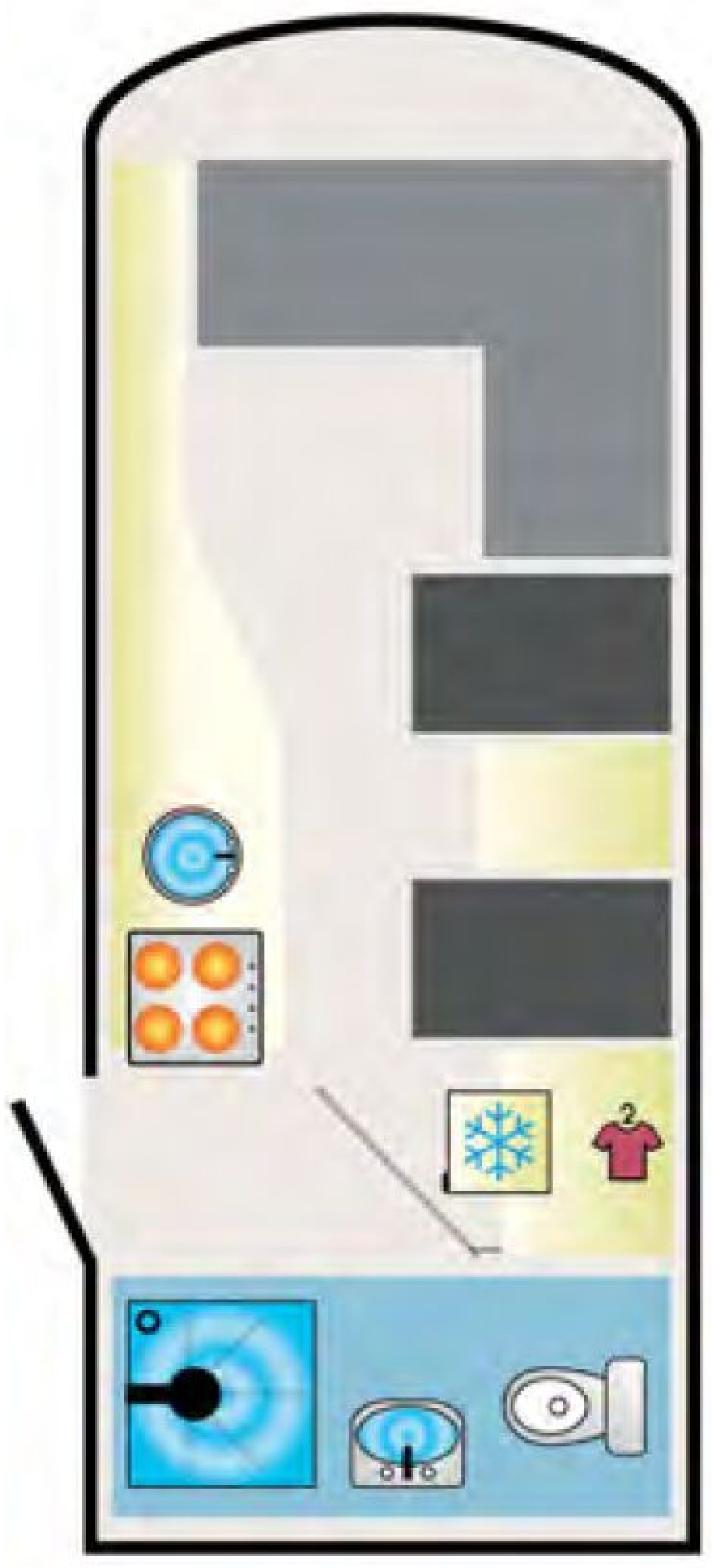

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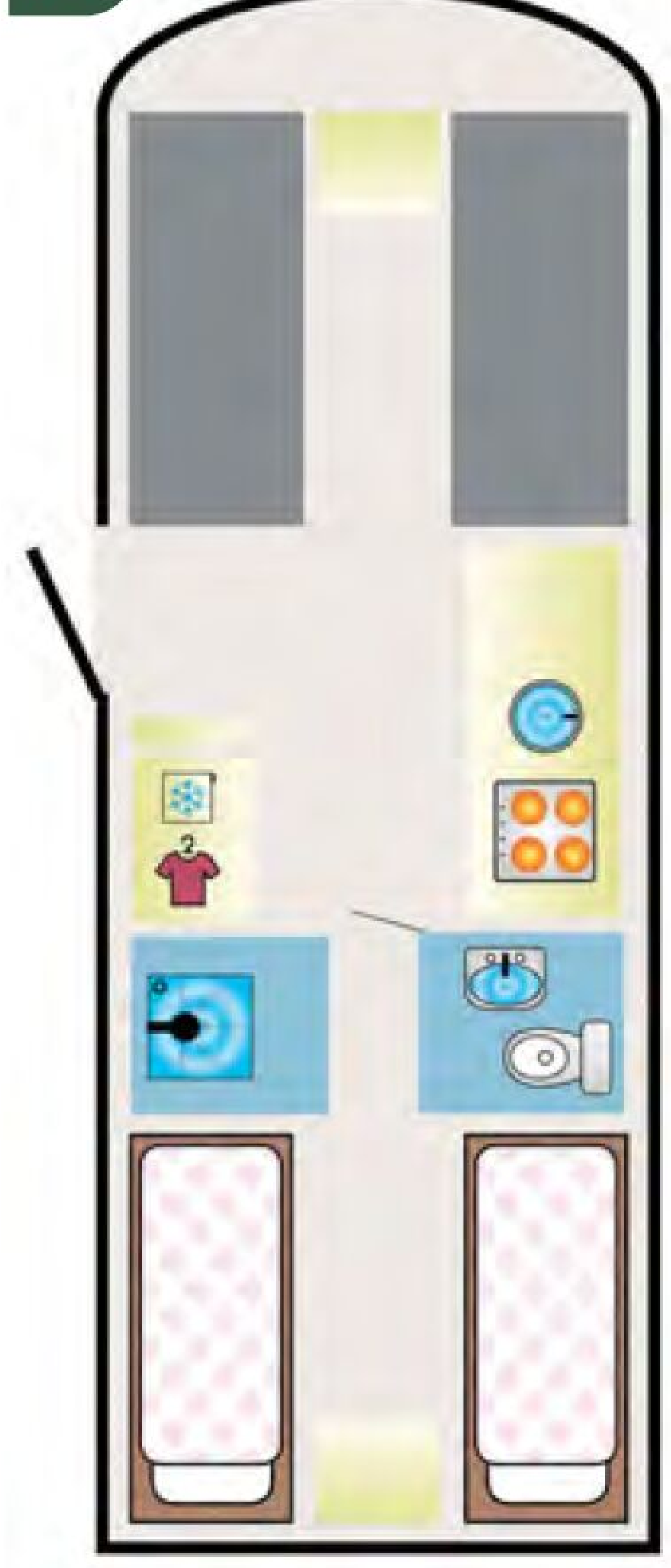

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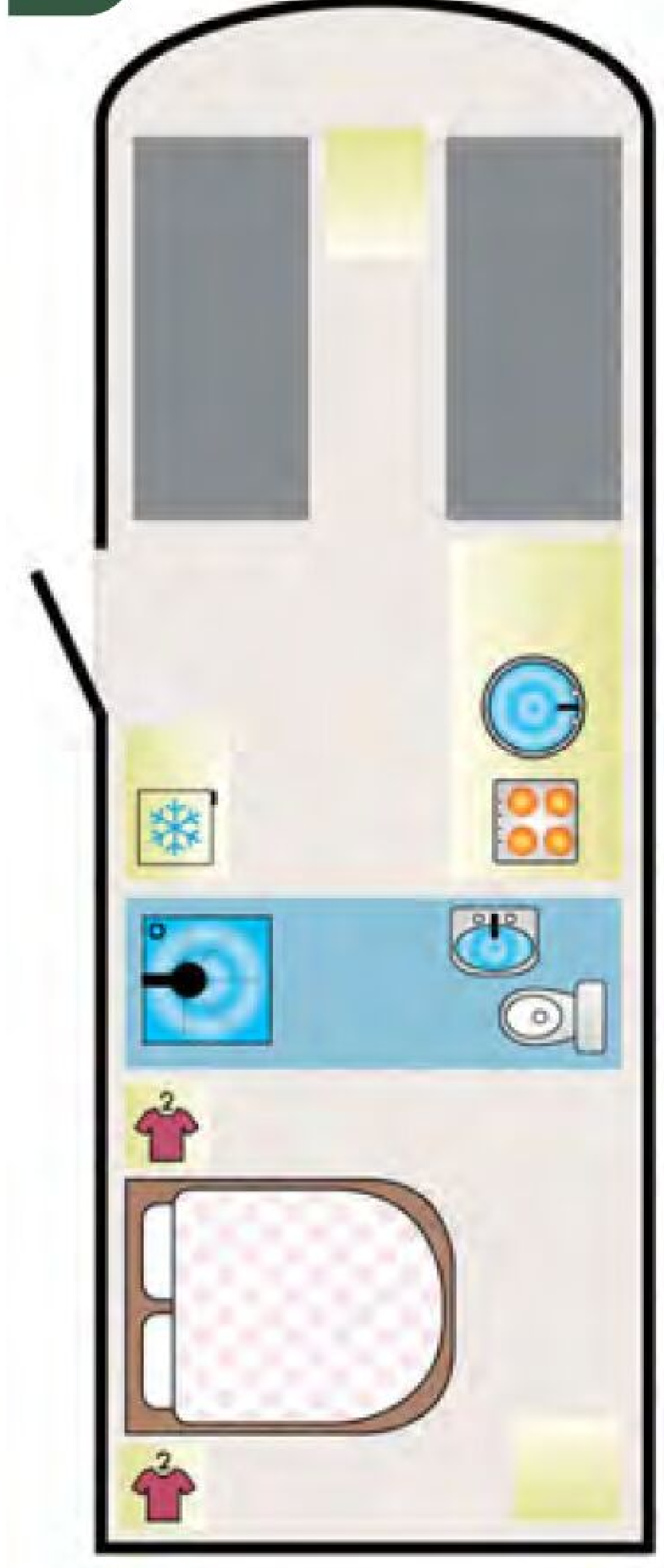

LAYOUT COMBINATIONS

A Two-berth, end kitchen, side washroom, make-up front double bed or single beds

B Two-berth, rear washroom, side kitchen, make-up front double bed

C Four-berth, rear bunks in kids' play/dining area, side washroom, front make-up double bed

D Five/six-berth, rear bunks, side washroom, side diner making into bunks for six berths, make-up front double bed

E Four-berth, transverse island bed, rear washroom, make-up front double bed, side kitchen

F Four-berth, fixed longitudinal double bed, rear washroom, make-up front double bed

G Five/six-berth, rear double bed, side washroom, side diner making into bunks for six berths, make-up front double bed

H Four-berth, rear central island bed, mid washroom, side kitchen, make-up front double bed

I Four-berth, rear transverse island bed, side washroom opposite side kitchen, make-up front double bed

J Four-berth, twin single beds, rear washroom, make-up front double bed

K Four-berth, rear side bunks in kids' play/dining area, separated by mid washroom, make-up front double bed

L Two/three/four-berth, rear washroom, front L-shaped lounge/make-up double bed, side diner makes single or bunks

M Four-berth, twin single rear beds, mid washroom, make-up front double bed

N Four-berth, rear transverse double bed, mid washroom, side kitchen, make-up front double bed

● This list covers most of the popular UK caravan layouts, but is not comprehensive. Continental makers offer different floorplans, but some may have the door on the offside rather than the nearside

Choosing your ideal **layout**

Deciding on the preferred layout is one of your most important decisions

Choosing the ideal caravan involves careful consideration of its layout, a crucial aspect in tailoring your touring experience. Beyond the fundamental concern of accommodating occupants, the layout plays a pivotal role in crafting the perfect tourer to suit your needs.

LAYOUTS FOR COUPLES

Twenty years ago, couples bought two-berth caravans. They all largely had the same layouts: two settees that convert into single beds (or a large double), a rear kitchen and a combined toilet/shower compartment in the offside corner. It was a classic small caravan arrangement that worked and sold well.

Then two things changed. The advent of the separate shower saw a drop in the number of combined toilet/shower compartments and, with it, this signalled the end of nylon shower curtains and confined washing spaces. Caravan showering became rather luxurious.

The second change was the arrival of the fixed double bed, which then shifted the whole dynamic of caravans for couples.

An example of a compact caravan for two is the Swift Sprite Alpine, this has a make-up double bed in the living room and a large end washroom. Then there's the Bailey Phoenix GT75 420 with a similar design. These lightweight models are ideal for couples new to caravanning.

Today's tourer choice for couples spans the entire caravan size spectrum. You can still get tiny tourers for two. You can also get super-luxury spacious tourers, designed primarily with couples in mind, but which are in fact four-berth caravans, with permanent beds and also a lounge that can be turned into a second bed. Call it the guest bedroom, as it can be considered equivalent to a spare bedroom in a house, ready to be used when needed. There's a raft of layout choice – along with price and weights.

Broadly, these caravans designed for couples are divided into four layout categories.

● ISLAND DOUBLE BEDS

Caravans with double beds that you can walk around on three sides have island bed layouts. The bedhead is against the rear or side wall.

With the bed against the rear wall, the shower room is in the centre, with the shower on one side and the toilet and washbasin opposite. Where the bed runs across the caravan, you'll find washrooms at the rear.

● TWIN BEDS

Most caravans with twin single beds have the shower room at the rear. A few have the beds at the rear and the shower/washing facilities forward of the beds. All have four berths, with lounges that transform into either two singles or a double

Richard Chapman

BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT Sprite Compact kitchen area with ample storage space; Coachman Acadia 460 washroom, featuring a sleek design

ABOVE LEFT
Swift Basecamp 2 exterior

ABOVE
Elddis Affinity 520 lounge area

bed. This layout has an interesting flexibility.

While the vast majority of twin bed caravans are bought by couples, this layout can equally well suit families who are looking for twin beds for offspring in the teen years – they get their own 'bedroom' and grown-ups make up a double bed in the lounge.

● SIDE DOUBLE BEDS

When fixed double beds arrived as a layout concept, all of them were at the rear along one side of the caravan (sometimes known as a French bed), with the shower/washroom either across the rear or in the corner, beside the bed.

Now, this layout has largely fallen out of fashion among new caravans, as island bed caravans have risen in popularity. Layouts have fashions and phases, which is particularly important if you are looking to buy in the pre-owned market. There, you will still find a good choice of caravans with side double beds.

You will, however, find some current models where the double bed is on one side with a longitudinally aligned shower room alongside it; an example of this layout is the Buccaneer Aruba.

● CLASSIC TWO-BERTHS

Even though caravans with fixed double or twin beds have overtaken the classic two-berth in popularity, there are still some on the new market as well as used.

Kitchens are amidships or at the rear. And, in recent years, there has been an evolution of the traditional two-berth end kitchen concept. Acting on the rise in demand for caravans with separate

TOP TIP – BED SIZES

In all cases, refer to the sizes of the beds on manufacturer websites and then take a tape measure to a dealer and double-check. That's not just children's beds – tall caravanners will need to check the length of double beds and the length of settees if these are to be used as single beds. Also, note that some bed measurements in brochures may refer to the length of the frame and not the mattress so, again, check the bed is large enough before you sign on the dotted line showers, manufacturers now produce two-berths with both end kitchens and end shower rooms.

How? By aligning the shower/toilet/washbasin elements down the caravan, rather than across the rear, so that the shower/washing 'room' sits alongside the kitchen.

LAYOUTS FOR FAMILIES

Lightweight or luxurious and everything in between, there is a vast choice of layouts designed for families. You can get four, five or six-berth caravans – and a few even have the capability to sleep seven. The larger will likely be on a twin-axle.

Here are some of the most popular layouts.

● FOUR-BERTHS WITH DOUBLE BEDS

There is a crossover here between layouts that appeal to both families and couples. Almost all layouts with fixed double beds have four-berth capability and, although most are bought by couples, the front settees can be used as single beds (depending on the length of the settees and the sizes of the children). It's a great layout for occasional visitors – grandchildren, perhaps. And, of course, the lounge can be transformed into a double bed.

● FOUR-BERTHS WITH SIDE DINING AREAS

There are also four-berth caravans with side dining areas that can be changed into bunks. These can be ideal for families with young children, and also for occasional visitors. When the visitors aren't there, you have a permanent dining area.

Richard Chapman

ABOVE
Sprite Quattro MB atmospheric lounge and kitchen

The top bunk base hinges up from the wall. The mattress is provided in sections and is usually stored under a settee. The lower bunk is created from the two facing seats plus a centre section, which is either wooden slats, linked by webbing, or the table that is removed from its clip on the wall, its leg folded and then positioned on two ledges on the edges of the seating bases. A ladder gives easy access to the top bunk.

The result is two bunks, which make an ideal children's 'bedroom' with a curtain that tracks around the area. Kids love bunks – often for no other reason than it's different from home and so they regard them as fun.

Something to consider when assessing whether a side dining area bunk arrangement is ideal for your family is the ages, and therefore the heights and weights, of your children.

Most top bunks have an upper weight limit stated on a notice on the side of the bunk.

BELOW
Xplore XC Quad fixed transverse island bed

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ABOVE AND BELOW
Bailey Discovery D4-4L

Bunks are narrower than domestic-sized single beds and many are shorter, too – so are ideal for younger children.

If you are buying new, bed sizes are available on manufacturer websites, so you can do your detailed research before you begin. If you are looking at used caravans, take a tape measure.

● FIVE AND SIX-BERTHS

There's a good choice of five-berth layouts. Which you prefer will largely depend on the ages of your children and whether a caravan with a bed area that's well separated from the rest of the caravan will work best for you.

A really popular five-berth layout has bunk beds in the rear nearside corner with a dining area opposite. This dining area converts into either a single bed or a single with a fold-up bunk above it (much like those in side dining area layouts), making a sixth berth. Another very popular family layout is one with a double bed in the nearside corner and a dining area that converts into bunks amidships, on the offside.

● TWO LOUNGES

The twin lounge concept was once a mainstay of family caravanning. Each end could be used as a lounge, dining area or play area while the other is used for a different activity. And each end makes into beds, either doubles or twins. Layouts go through fashion phases and twin lounges have largely disappeared from new ranges. So, if you think this arrangement will suit your family, you're best advised to look on the used market.

The Bailey Discovery D4-3, an ultra-lightweight three-berth model with two lounges, is available on the used market. One end makes into a double bed and the other transforms into a wide single bed.

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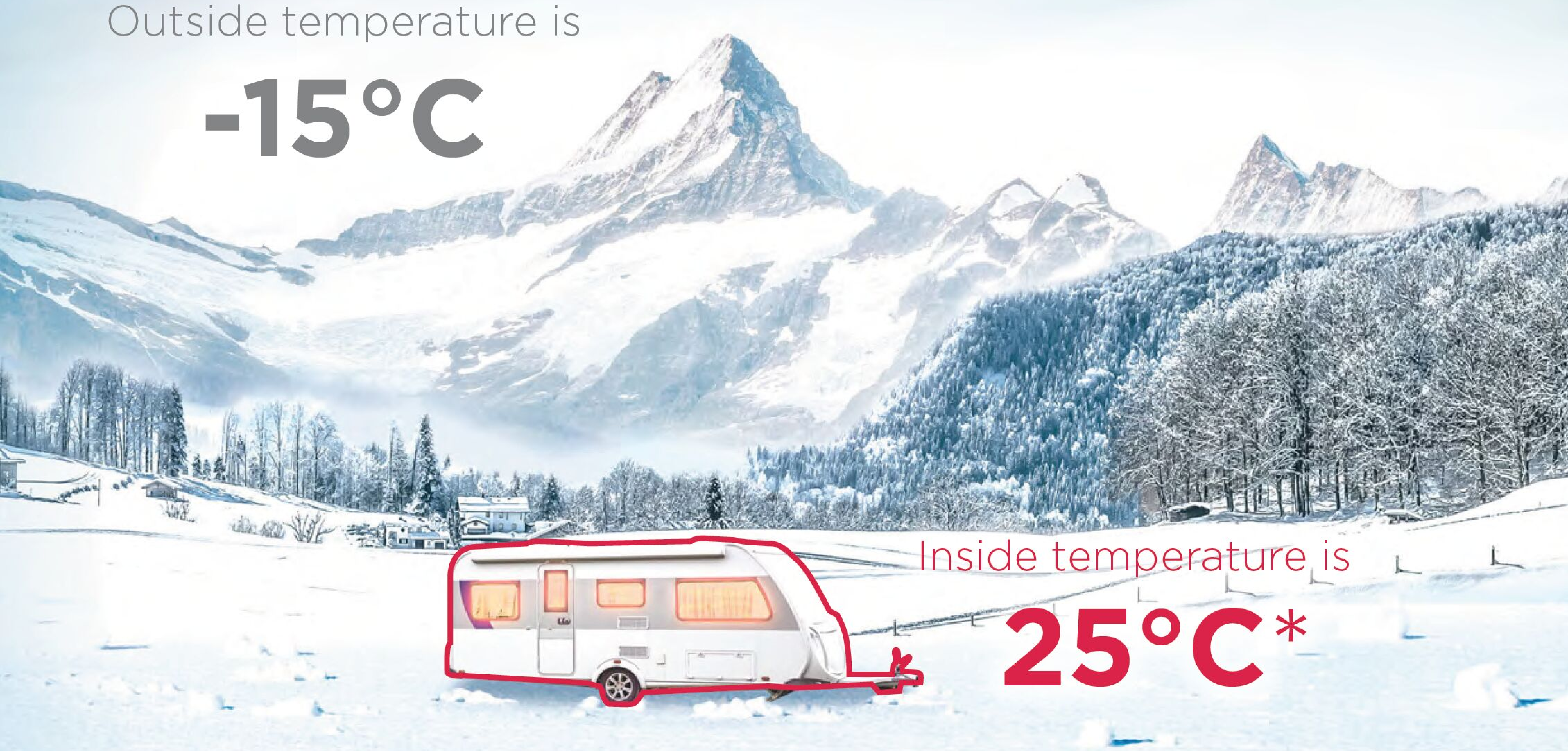
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Is caravanning **confusing?**

Here's some advice on how to get started with your exciting new hobby

If you're new to caravanning, getting hitched up and heading for the perfect campsite can seem like a never-ending series of hurdles. Will my car tow a caravan? How much weight can my caravan carry? Will my driving licence allow me to tow a caravan at all? Thankfully, it's surprisingly simple.

Rewind 18 years and my first caravanning trip could have been more harmonious. Deciding that a 200-mile round trip was the ideal recipe for a first outing, we hitched a poorly loaded caravan to our car and headed for Dartmoor. In winter.

At the time, weight and payload guides appeared to be the work of advanced mathematicians, and my already overloaded brain couldn't store any more algebraic formulas. Easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions were needed, a void I hope this guide will fill.

BELOW
Full licence card with categories of vehicle allowed to drive

B1
B
C1
C
D1
D
BE
C1E
CE
D1E
DE

mundissima / Shutterstock

WILL MY DRIVING LICENCE ALLOW ME TO TOW A CARAVAN?

This has been a confusing topic for many years, with much discussion surrounding pre and post-1997 driving licences.

However, the Government changed driving licence entitlements in December 2021, automatically granting BE entitlement to folks who took their B test after 1997. For the purposes of this article, I'll discuss B and BE licence categories and the weights allowed.

● POST-1997

Before the 2021 changes, anyone who passed their driving test after 1 January, 1997, and gained the B category, was limited to a maximum combined weight (car and caravan) of 3,500kg. Now, post-1997 licence holders have

VALENCIA
UNICORN
UNICORN
BAILEY

Andrew Duke / Alamy Stock Photo

ABOVE Caravans at Denny Wood in the New Forest National Park. Once you've set up, you can relax and enjoy the break!

automatically been awarded the BE category and can tow a caravan that weighs up to 3,500kg – provided the towcar can legally tow such weight. The vast majority of caravans are well below this substantial figure and, as a guide, my Bailey Phoenix+ 650 – a five-berth family caravan – weighs 1,409kg.

It's worth noting that unless your licence has been physically updated by renewal, etc, it will still display the B category, not BE. This isn't a problem in the UK, but, should you travel abroad, police forces may not have access to the UK database, making it appear that you can only tow up to B category limits, ie 3,500kg.

Updating your photocard driving licence is recommended if you're planning an overseas trip and have a car and caravan that exceed a combined weight of 3,500kg.

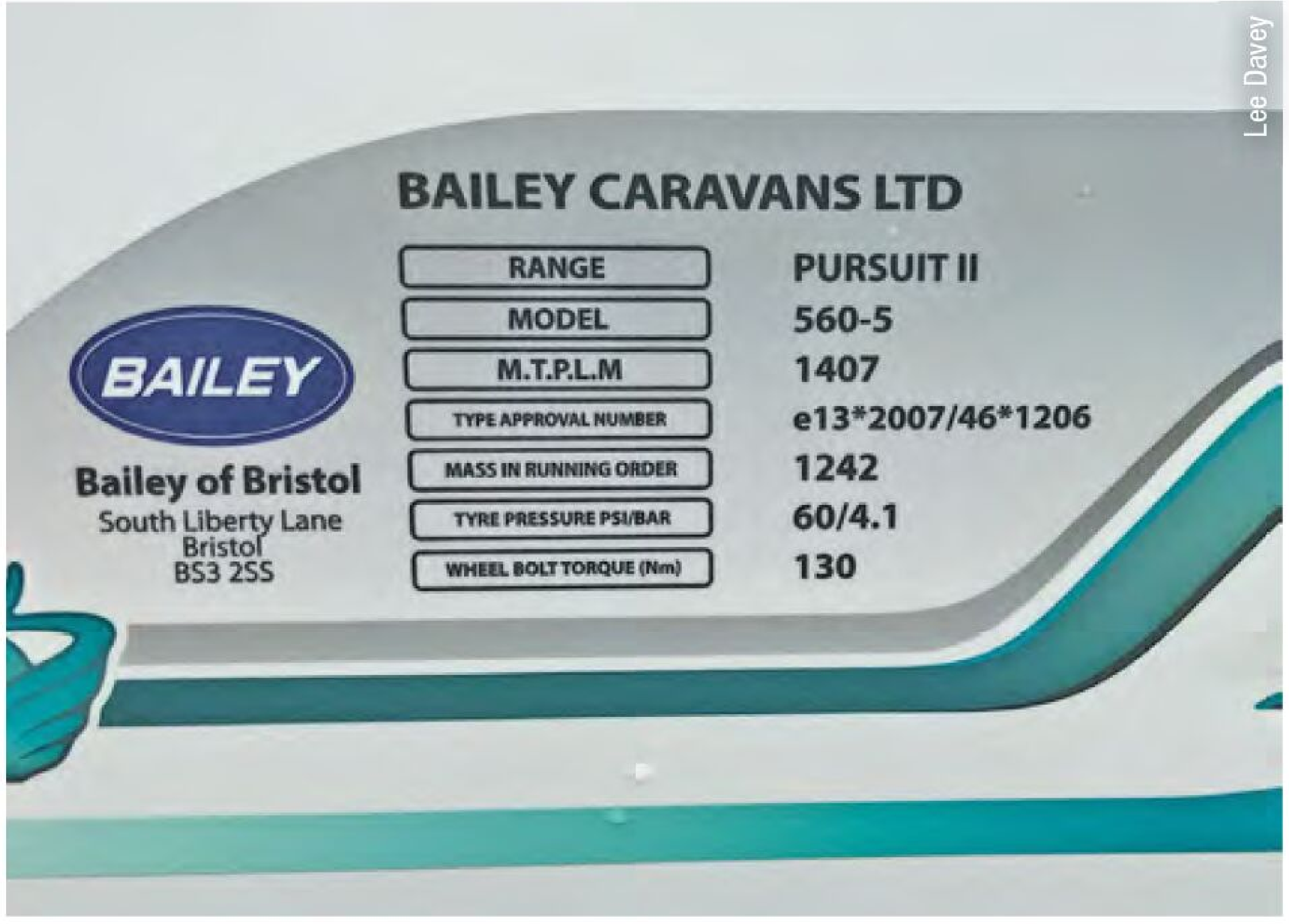
● PRE-1997

If, like me, you passed your driving test before 1997, nothing has changed. You'll be able to tow a theoretical combined weight (car and caravan) of up to 8,250kg.

CAN MY CAR TOW A CARAVAN?

If your car can tow (not all vehicles can), it will have a maximum towing weight. Guidelines from both major UK caravanning Clubs suggest keeping the caravan's fully loaded weight, or MTPLM, to 85% or less of the car's kerbweight. This advice isn't legally enforceable, although it is worth following, especially if you're new to caravanning. Experienced caravanners can tow up to 100% of this figure.

The car's towing limit can be found on the V5, under category O.1, or on a weight plate fitted to



Lee Davey

BAILEY CARAVANS LTD

BAILEY

Bailey of Bristol
South Liberty Lane
Bristol
BS3 2SS

RANGE	PURSUIT II
MODEL	560-5
M.T.P.L.M	1407
TYPE APPROVAL NUMBER	e13*2007/46*1206
MASS IN RUNNING ORDER	1242
TYRE PRESSURE PSI/BAR	60/4.1
WHEEL BOLT TORQUE (Nm)	130

the car itself. The top two weight plate figures give your car's maximum weight (MAM) and gross train weight (GTW).

The GTW is the combined weight of both the car and caravan. Subtracting the lower figure from the higher figure will give the maximum weight your vehicle can tow.

DO I NEED TOWING MIRRORS?

The law surrounding towing mirrors is dictated by the rearward view, not the automatic fitment of extended mirrors when towing. However, even if I'm towing our slimline vintage caravan with my Mercedes Vito, I'll minimise the possibility of roadside conversations by fitting mirrors regardless. Also, an 8ft-wide caravan will likely require towing mirrors with extended arms.

LOADING YOUR CARAVAN

Loading a caravan is a reasonably straightforward process and boils down to two things – how much extra weight the caravan can carry and where you put it.

Calculating this weight-carrying capacity, or payload, is as simple as subtracting one figure from another – the MRO (lower figure) from the MTPLM (higher figure) – both of which can be found in the handbook or on the data sticker.

If you've had any equipment fitted to the caravan since it left the factory, such as a motor mover or solar panel, the weight of these items will need to be deducted from your payload figure. For example, a motor mover could be 30kg, a large roof-mounted solar panel 10kg, Aquaroll 4.5kg, etc. If it's your first time, or you're packing something new, it's worth weighing each box or bag on a set of bathroom scales to ensure you stay within this weight limit.

Putting caravanning essentials in the correct place makes it more stable and less prone to snaking or pitching. Personally, I load the boot of the car first, with the remainder going into the caravan; don't forget the car has a load limit, too.

When loading the caravan, the heaviest items – awning, etc – should be loaded low down over the axle. The medium-weight items – bags, etc – should also be loaded low down, possibly under the seats, but keep heavier items as close to the axle as possible. Light items – clothing, etc – can be loaded higher up in the lockers or wardrobe; be aware that the higher the weight, the more it affects your caravan's centre of gravity. Also, avoid putting too much weight at either end of the caravan, as it can act like a pendulum.

Keeping things in position on the floor can seem like mission impossible, but Milenco makes a Cargo Bar which is excellent for keeping floor-mounted kit safe and secure.

NOSE WHAT?

Your caravan's noseweight is simply the weight, or downward force, of the caravan's hitch on your tow vehicle's towbar. Checking this weight is a vital thing to do and, thankfully, it's relatively simple. To do this, you will need the tow vehicle's noseweight limit (found in the handbook), the

MTPLM? GTW? MIRO?

Need a hand figuring out all the caravanning jargon? Check out our handy guide on page 82

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT Towing mirrors; The data sticker tells you everything you need to know about your caravan

BELOW You'll need to check your vehicle's maximum towing weight

Doug Houghton / Alamy Stock Photo

BEER GARDEN and CAR PARK

towbar's limit (on accompanying documentation or a plate attached to the towbar), and the caravan chassis limit (the 'S' number stamped on the Al-Ko hitch). For example, my Vito has the following limits: car: 100kg, towbar: 150kg, and caravan chassis: 150kg. The caravan's noseweight cannot exceed the lowest of these three figures, which, for me, is 100kg.

Now we move to the caravan's MTPLM (its maximum, fully loaded weight), which can be found on a sticker on the side of the caravan or in the handbook. The ideal noseweight is between 5% and 7% of this figure, so mine would be between 70kg and 98kg.

Personally, I like my noseweight to be at the heavier end of the scale, so I tend to set mine around 90kg to 95kg, which is within my tow vehicle's 100kg limit.

With your caravan loaded, place a noseweight gauge under the hitch and raise the jockey wheel until the noseweight gauge takes all the hitch's downward weight. If you haven't got a noseweight gauge, bathroom scales and a piece of wood cut to length make an ideal substitute.

If the noseweight is too heavy, move any floor-mounted luggage towards the rear and check again. Do the reverse if it's too light. Due to a possible pendulum effect, avoid moving heavy items more than 2ft (60cm) on either side of the axle. If this isn't possible, time spent rearranging heavier items is well spent and will make for an enjoyable and safer tow.

ABOVE
Caravan equipment, including a Challenger K2 inflatable kayak, bike rack, and awning

BELOW
Noseweight gauge

HITCHING UP

To hitch up, start by making sure the caravan's handbrake is on, the corner steadies are raised, and the height of the caravan's hitch is higher than the car's towball. Reverse the car until the towball is underneath the caravan hitch. A motor mover can make final adjustments simpler, especially if you're doing this alone. Attach the caravan's breakaway cable to the car. Raise the stabiliser and hitch levers and lower the hitch onto the towball by winding the jockey wheel up. Keep winding the jockey wheel until the hitch fits over the towball, the hitch lever clicks into place and the visual indicator pops out, showing green.

To double-check that the hitch is located correctly, wind the jockey wheel back down until the rear of your towcar lifts an inch or two. Wind the jockey wheel up, undo the jockey wheel clamp, lift, and secure out of the way. If you have a stabiliser hitch, push down the stabiliser arm and check that this visual indicator is also showing green. Attach the connector or connectors for the lights, etc. If the cable is too long, twist it to keep it from dragging on the road. Ensure the car's handbrake is securely on and properly engaged, then carefully release the handbrake and motor mover, if applicable.

Check that the caravan lights are working and that doors, windows and rooflights are closed. Make any final adjustments to the towing mirrors, and you're ready to go!

TOWING AND MANOEUVRING

The Caravan and Motorhome Club and the Camping and Caravanning Club offer towing and manoeuvring courses at various locations around the country. These simple tips could prove invaluable during a caravan holiday.

When towing a caravan, the speed limit on single carriageways is 50. Dual carriageways and motorways are 60.

Like anything else, reversing a caravan comes with practice, and it helps if the car and caravan are straight before you begin. A good tip for reversing in a straight line is to turn the top of your steering wheel towards the mirror that shows the larger part of the caravan. Small, slow movements are important and always try to pick a point behind the caravan to 'aim' at. If you're reversing onto a pitch and using the pitch peg as an aim point, remember that the caravan will pivot around the wheel(s). Don't worry if it doesn't go right the first time; pull forward, straighten up and give it another go. Or a motor mover is an excellent get-out-of-jail-free card.

ELECTRIC CARS

The power characteristics of an electric motor, coupled with the additional weight of battery packs, make towing with electric vehicles an enjoyable experience. I have towed with various hybrids and BEVs (battery electric vehicles) and the linear power characteristics make for exceptional towcars. Just two or three years ago, BEVs capable of towing a family-sized caravan were relatively few. Now, an increasing number of electric vehicles with towing limits of 1,500kg, or more, are available.

As with a petrol or diesel car, the range decreases when towing, and the combination of stop/start slower traffic and aerodynamics at higher speeds can halve range figures.

Recharging when towing often necessitates unhitching before charging; although, should you be able to reach the campsite on a single charge, both major UK Clubs offer on-site charging.

In 2035, the Government will ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars. Although the charging network is still developing, initial tests show a promising future for caravanning.

PURSUIT
ClubCou
Towing and M
024
club

The Camping & Caravanning Club

ABOVE The Caravan and Motorhome Club offers towing as well as manoeuvring courses

BELOW The Volvo XC60 T6 PHEV AWD Plus Auto was Towcar of the Year winner 2025 in the Caravan and Motorhome Club Awards

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Buying used or new
the pros and cons

Is new or used best? We take you through the options

Just like buying a car, there are advantages and disadvantages to buying new and secondhand. There is far more to this decision than simply how much money you want to spend. Warranties are one factor, depreciation is another. and many more exist, so read on and see what options suit you.

Motorhome Depot Congleton

Caravans like this 2015 Coachman Pastiche 575/4 can be found at dealers. This four-berth was £11,999

BUYING USED

THE PROS

✓ More caravan for your money
✓ Wider choice of layouts
✓ Greater choice of brands and dealers
✓ Often have aftermarket extras fitted

Buying used means you can get more caravan for your money and you also get a greater choice of layouts as many are no longer available in new ranges.

Many nearly new caravans are in sparkling condition, almost indistinguishable from the day they left the factory, yet are significantly cheaper than a new equivalent.

Just like with new cars, new caravans depreciate quicker the newer they are – and then depreciation slows. Which means, if you buy used, your investment in leisure retains more of its value for longer.

If you're buying your first caravan, you may be unsure of all of your requirements and how well a particular layout will suit you, until you begin to use it. If you later decide that a different layout would suit you better, it's a less costly mistake if you have bought used, simply because of the depreciation. You can trade in your first purchase and choose another used caravan without breaking the bank.

A 2011 Coachman VIP 545 could be yours for £8,995, a similar new model (565) would be £36,495

Although it's better not to make a layout mistake at all, it does happen and some people do part-exchange their first caravan quickly for one with a different layout.

THE CONS

✗ No, or limited, warranty cover
✗ The layout might not be to your taste
✗ Someone has used the toilet, slept in the bed and used the cooking facilities
✗ May require more maintenance
✗ Dated look and equipment

When buying a used caravan, you may have to compromise on your ideal fabric colour or furniture finish to get a model at the right price with the right layout. Used caravans typically come with a shorter warranty (three months to three years) compared to new caravans.

For used models, ensure that the documents correspond to the vehicle and confirm that the caravan is not under any financing. Buying from a dealer in this respect is less risky than buying privately, and you get the warranty cover that is absent from private sales.

You should always have a full damp check carried out, as well as a habitation service and safety check.

The National Caravan Council (NCC) operates a series of schemes to help – find out more at **thencc.org.uk**

BUYING NEW

THE PROS

✓ Manufacturer-backed warranty
✓ The caravan is fitted with the latest tech
✓ You get a brand-new, unused model
✓ Can be made to your specification and tastes

Buying new is attractive for many reasons, not least that the caravan is fitted with the latest technology, including lightweight, attractive construction and exteriors, better security and safety systems and the most modern cooking and bedding systems. You also get a warranty of up to 10 years.

You can take your time and compare caravans before deciding; whereas, if you are buying used, you may have to make up your mind quickly, otherwise the caravan you are considering may be snapped up.

Buying new means you can specify the model to suit you with the fabric and furniture finishes you prefer. You can have extras added by the dealer or sometimes by the manufacturer at the factory.

THE CONS

✗ If you make a mistake and buy a layout that proves not to be ideal, it's costly to change because of the depreciation

This is why you need to do your research and create a must-have list. If you're buying new, look out for the previous year's models which are still unsold. The best time to do this is in the weeks running up to the October NEC show. Retailers are especially keen to sell any remaining caravans in the summer, before the new-model-year caravans arrive, although discounts can be found at any time of the year. Even though these caravans are not of the latest model year, they are still new, which means you get the warranty advantage – and pay less.

Swift Group

WHAT YOUR MONEY BUYS

BUYING USED

Under £5,000
If you are lucky, you may find a lovely used caravan for £5,000 or less. Caravans in this price bracket in really good condition are rare, and dealers generally only sell the exceptional ones in this price bracket. Make sure it is damp-checked and that all the electrics, wheels, tyres and gas systems are safe.

Under £10,000
If you have a budget under £10,000 you may have to search for a while to find something in really good condition for its year. But, be patient and one may come along that is perfect. Remember that secondhand availability peaks over the winter months as people leave the hobby. With trade-ins, note that most new caravans are sold at the massive show at the NEC in Birmingham every October. Orders are taken here and deliveries begin the following spring so expect more trade-ins to appear for sale in dealerships during that period.

£10,000 – £15,000
In this price bracket you have a really good choice and can expect to pick a caravan that suits your requirements and taste fairly quickly.

£15,000+
Upwards of £15,000 there's the best choice because many caravans are traded in for newer models in their third to fifth year and the resulting part-exchanges make excellent buys. Expect a dealer warranty when spending this much and expect a high-quality model with some aftermarket extras like awnings already fitted.

BUYING NEW

At-a-glance guide to examples across four price categories for 2024/2025.

Under £20,000
- Bailey Discovery D4-2 – £19,999

Under £25,000
- Xplore XC Lite – £21,999
- Sprite Alpine 2 – £23,545
- Swift Basecamp 2 – £24,995

Under £30,000
- Xplore XC Quad – £25,499
- Elddis Avante 520 – £26,299
- Coachman Acadia 460 – £29,745

£30,000+
- Elddis Affinity 574 – £30,999
- Coachman VIP 675 – £39,350
- Coachman Laser 875 Xtra – £42,070

adria.co.uk

Adria 2025

Well-made and never afraid to offer something a bit different, Adria's line-up for 2025 kicks off with the individualist Action models...

Action

For 2025, Adria presents the 361 LT, its only Action model available in the UK. This compact two-berth caravan is designed for outdoor enthusiasts, featuring a front lounge, rear kitchen and corner washroom. Weighing just 960kg (without the All-Inclusive Pack), the 361 LT is easy to tow. Despite its size, this caravan offers impressive storage options. You'll find ample space under the settees and two stylish cabinets above the lounge.

The wrap-around seating area feels surprisingly spacious for a caravan that measures only four meters in length. You can easily convert the lounge into a double bed measuring 2m square or use the settees as single beds – each also measuring 2m long. To enhance the experience further, the All-Inclusive Pack includes features like Bluetooth audio, cushions, a cutting board and a spare wheel.

- **Action prices start from £24,760**

Alpina

Style lovers who are drawn to wider tourers will want to check out the Alpina lineup. This range features three models, including the four-berth Rio Grande. With a total length of 8.19m and the same 8ft width as its sisters, it's more like a modern apartment on wheels than a touring caravan. The other two models are the four-berth Mississippi, which has a transverse double island bed, and the four-berth Colorado, which features a rear private bedroom with twin single beds. Look out for features such as Adria's signature sink and hob combination (with three in-line gas burners), large-capacity fridge/freezer, cold foam mattresses on sprung slatted bases, Media Controller with Bluetooth for music streaming, and Adria's MACH app for remote checking and controlling of lighting, heating, gas and battery conditions… right through to letting you know the unit is level when you're pitching up.

Richard Chapman

- **Alpina prices start from £42,525**

Altea

In 2024, Adria overhauled its three lightweight Altea models: the 612 DL Tyne, with twin single beds and an end washroom; the six-berth 622 DK Avon, with bunk beds and a rear side dinette; and the 622 DP Dart, with a rear island double bed.

While there were no changes for 2025, each model has a stylish all-silver body finish for the season ahead. All models feature the Al-Ko Vario X chassis, with last year's upgrades including fabric-covered settee bases, wall linings, smart storage and even an optional bespoke dog bed.

The furniture features materials that are lighter, yet, says Adria, sturdier than ever.

Much has been done to suit the needs of UK consumers, too. Items like alloy wheels, kitchen sink cover/chopping board, and drainer, microwave oven, ambient lighting, flatscreen TV holder, Bluetooth amplifier and Truma heating/hot water systems operating from mains electricity, as well as gas all come as standard.

- **Altea prices start from £29,080**

Richard Chapman
out&about LIVE
Caravan
Awards 2025
WINNER
BEST CARAVAN UNDER £30,000
Adria Altea 622 DP Dart
creation

Adora

Still Adria's best-seller here in the UK, the three-model Adora range for 2025 consists the 612 DL Seine, which is a four-berth tourer with twin permanent single beds and a full-width rear washroom.

The other two models are the four-berth 623 DP Tiber, which has a rear island bed floorplan and the four-berth 623 DT Isonzo, with a transverse island double bed.

There were only minor updates for 2025 – Adria knows when it is on to a good thing!

- **Adora prices start from £34,030**

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Bailey of Bristol 2025

Take a look at the huge range this leading caravan and motorhome manufacturer has to offer in 2025

Pegasus Grande GT75

The Pegasus Grande GT75 range features spacious 8ft-wide models designed for modern caravanning. The range includes six models: the Brindisi, Portofino, Bologna, and Messina – a top quartet in caravan design. Additionally, the Amalfi is a six-berth model featuring a fixed rear French bed, front lounge, and bunk beds, while the Ancona is a five-berth model with a front double bed made from the lounge and bunk beds at the rear. Built on Al-Ko's ATC chassis, each model boasts premium features such as a Sonos media station and solar panels, combining luxury with practicality.

- **Pegasus Grande GT75 prices start from £29,799**

Alicanto Grande Deluxe

For 2025, Bailey of Bristol has added a model to the Alicanto Grande Deluxe, which now features three twin-axle models and one single-axle model. The exterior boasts a champagne and bronze graphics scheme with advanced features like LED lights and Al-Ko's ATC trailer control system.

Inside, there are new soft furnishing options, kitchen upgrades, and technology additions such as solar panels and wireless charging pads across all models in the range.

Of the current Alicanto ranges, all are four-berths (the front lounges convert into beds); the Evora, Alvor and Porto are on twin-axle chassis, with the Sintra on a single.

Signature Bailey features here include the long, swooping, opening central front window, with smaller units either side – as well as optimal ventilation and views out, it also enhances the feeling of interior spaciousness.

Also, those front lounges include soft but supportive seating backed by corner head restraints. Equipment levels throughout are high, too, as you'd expect.

The Alicante Grande Deluxe inventory includes Alde central heating and hot water systems, Avtex WiFi system, wireless smartphone charger, etc, with upgrades including a Thetford 137-litre fridge, wine rack, soft-touch bed headboards, Omnivent kitchen extractor fan, colour mixer for the ambient lighting, and more.

Optional extras include high-quality bedding sets and an alternative upholstery with an Aquaclean finish for easy cleaning and maintenance.

- **Alicanto Grande prices start from £38,699**

baileyofbristol.co.uk

Unicorn Deluxe

Another highly popular line from Bailey, Unicorn Deluxe models come in many different formats, offering accommodation for up to four people. These include options with island double beds. The only other layout with permanent beds is the Cadiz, which features two single beds and a full-width rear washroom. Among the single-axle models, you can find the two-berth Seville and four-berth options like Madrid, Cadiz, Vigo, and Cabrera. Additionally, there is the twin-axle Pamplona model that accommodates up to four people and is priced from £35,999, making it the most expensive option in the range.

For 2025, Bailey has introduced new upgrades to the Unicorn Deluxe models. Changes include a Sonos sound system, zonal dimmable lighting, and high-level brake light. The kitchen now features a circular sink, laminate worktop finish, and pull-out wire basket storage. Lounge updates include black fixtures, new fabrics in Blossom, Mulberry and Jasmine options, and woodwork in Satin Cashmere and Stone Grey. Exterior changes involve chrome and bronze graphics, a new floor construction using plywood skin with vinyl underside, Styrofoam core and black alloy wheels. The Unicorn Deluxe has adopted the long, curved, opening front window and stylish interiors with a choice of two furnishings schemes. Wider rear beds and an Alde central heating system ensure you'll be cosy whatever season you travel.

- **Unicorn Deluxe prices start from £31,599**

Discovery

out&about LIVE
Caravan
Awards 2025
WINNER
BEST LIGHTWEIGHT AND COMPACT CARAVAN
Bailey Discovery D4-4L
creation

New to caravanning but want to take the plunge with a brand-new tourer that's a little bit different from the norm?

Here's Bailey's answer. Choose from three contemporary Discovery models – two-berth D4-2, four-berth D4-4 or four-berth D4-4L – note that accessories including inflatable awnings and Thule bike racks are available across the range.

From their curved, single window fronts to their radiused corners at the rear, there's a distinct Discovery look. it does, however, use the same Alu-Tech body construction as all their stablemates, also benefiting from Bailey's usual six-year bodywork warranty. Maximum weights start at 998kg, making them eminently towable, too.

- **Discovery prices start from £19,999**

Phoenix GT75

Very much affordably middle of the market, the six-model Phoenix GT75 range kicks off with the 420 – a classic two-berth layout with twin settees that convert into a double bed or twin singles.

The other models include four single-axle four-berths: the 440, 640, 642, and 644, and one six-berth – the twin-axle 762, which is designed for family comfort.

The 762 features a side dinette that converts into bunk beds, as well as another set of bunk beds opposite. It also includes a lounge that can be converted into either twin singles or a double bed, providing sleeping space for up to six people.

Bailey prioritises continuous improvement and innovation. Instead of launching new models at fixed times each season, It introduces new designs as needed. This approach allows Bailey to quickly respond to market trends, customer feedback and emerging opportunities, keeping its offerings relevant throughout the year.

- **Phoenix GT75 prices start from £23,599**

Buccaneer 2025

Erwin Hymer Group UK's super-premium range. Each of the five Buccaneers pack a lot of luxury into a big and beautiful body

Five models make up the Erwin Hymer Group UK's super-premium offering. Erwin Hymer Group UK likes to call its Buccaneers "The UK's most luxurious touring caravan". It is hard to disagree.

The 2025 Buccaneer range features minor exterior design updates and significant interior enhancements. All five models in the range now include new kitchen splashbacks, laminate worktops, taps in the washrooms and metal paddle catches on storage cabinets.

Additionally, there are new upholstery schemes, improved sheet materials, full-height headboards, metal coat hooks in the washroom, and 'halo' lighting under upper storage cabinets for a natural lighting effect.

The layouts remain unchanged for this season, with prices ranging from £45,699 to £46,999. All Buccaneers are twin-axle with 8ft-wide bodies. Indeed, everything about Buccaneer is large. The

ABOVE
The super-luxurious Cruiser

BELOW LEFT
The transverse island bed inside the Cruiser looks very inviting

BELOW
Commodore kitchen with plenty of storage

buccaneer-rv.co.uk

standard equipment list is nothing short of stupendous and includes E&P's latest-generation self-levelling system, which will have you perfectly pitched in minutes.

The 24-hour programmable Alde heating system, which includes underfloor heating, is also included as standard.

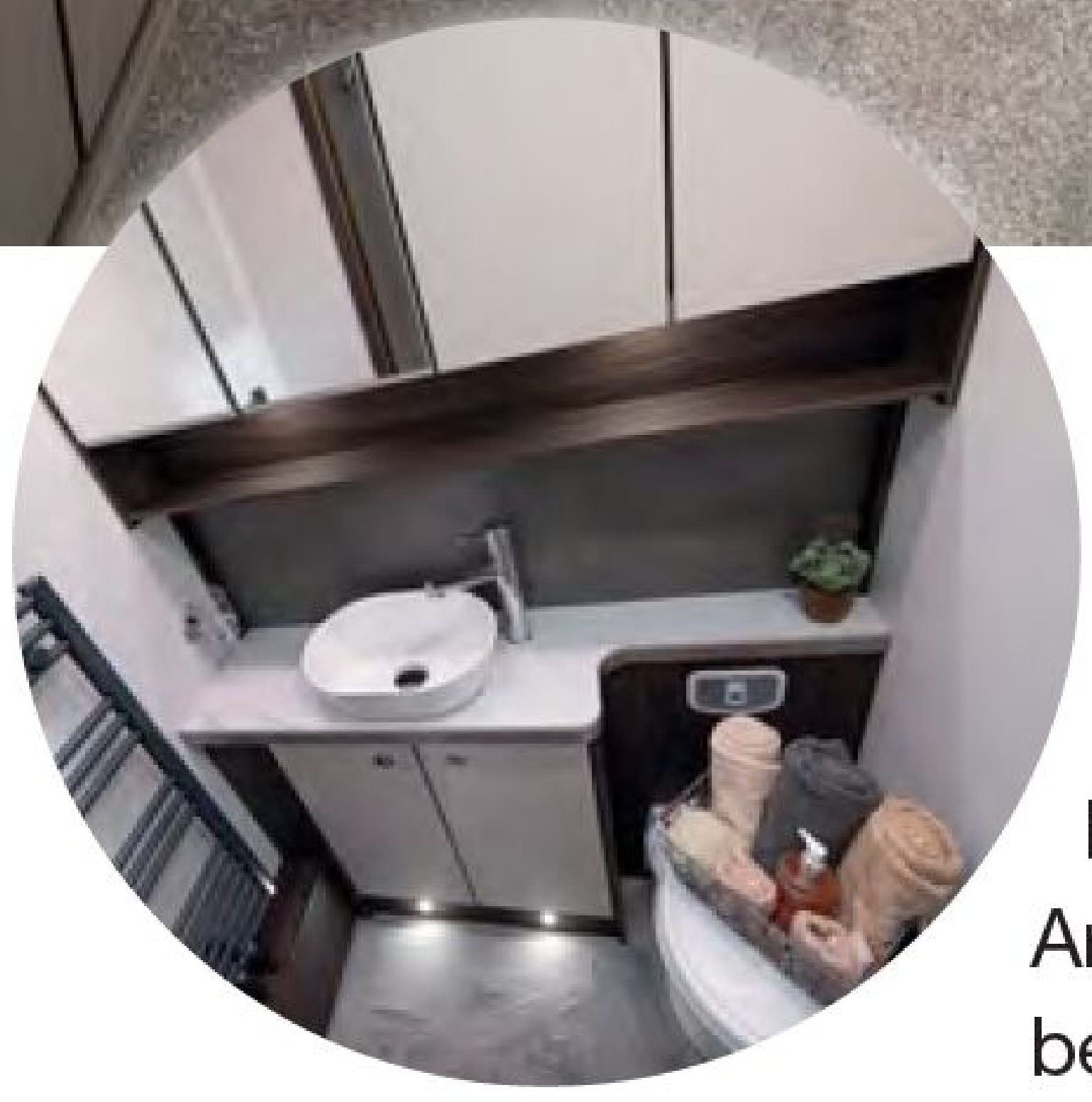
Fridges are an awesome 153 litres in capacity and the latest models come with luxuries ranging from a 100W solar panel (with additional connectivity) to a Pioneer stereo system with DAB radio and mobile phone compatibility.

Buccaneer's line-up starts with the Commodore and Cruiser, both four-berths with total lengths of 8.18m. Both have transverse island beds and the same twin settee front lounge and mid-caravan kitchen kitted out to the gunnels with a full cooker (electric hotplate, three gas rings, separate oven and grill), supplemented by a microwave oven, with oodles of storage and worktop space. If you prefer your lounge seating to be L-shaped, check out the Barracuda and Bermuda, each of which also boasts a wall-mounted 32in TV. It's the Aruba that threatens to steal the show, though, with its additional central U-shaped seating area, which can also be made into a double bed, this allows the Aruba to become a full 6-berth caravan when holiday plans require. At 8.18m in length, the Aruba features a rear French-style fixed double bed alongside a washroom with a water-efficient Ecocamel showerhead.

These caravans are also amongst the safest and most secure, with standard fittings like Al-Ko ATC, Al-Ko Secure Diamond-standard wheel locks, Thatcham Cat 7 Tracker, and PIR alarm. There's still some room for manoeuvring as far as optional extras are concerned.

Dream+ bed mattresses, leather upholstery, satellite TV receiver, air-conditioning and a mobile internet and WiFi system all command a premium. Also, one new feature you won't notice immediately is the seam-free finish to the interior walls. Here, Buccaneer has come up with a 100% recyclable material that is water, stain and scratch-resistant and is as lightweight as it is durable. It's called HaloTEC.

- **Buccaneer prices start from around £45,699**



ABOVE LEFT
Bermuda lounge with a flatscreen TV

ABOVE RIGHT
Aruba dining area, with ample space

INSET
Barracuda's washroom has plenty of storage

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ACADIA 460

VIP 520

LASER 575 XTRA

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LUSSO II

LUSSO III

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Acadia

Richard Chapman

Richard Chapman

Coachman's portfolio starts with the impressive Acadia range. Each of the five models in the range feature sleek silver or grey sides and stylish five-spoke black diamond-cut alloy wheels. For 2025, Acadia has two new models featuring updated layouts. The smallest is the 460, a two-berth caravan with an rear washroom. The largest is the 675, which is eight feet wide and has four berths, an L-shaped lounge and a transverse island bed. In addition to these new models, the existing range includes the five-berth 660 and the four-berth 575 and 545. Each model had richer wood tones and new soft furnishings, along with upgraded features like the new Thetford fridge/freezer and TV aerial.

- **Acadia prices start from £29,745**

VIP

Next up from Acadia, pricewise, in the Coachman portfolio is the five-model VIP line-up, all with new 3D exterior graphics, new internal fabrics and kitchen updates, which were introduced in 2024.

The five VIPs include the two-berth 460, the three-berth 520 and the four-berth 565, 575 and 675. All have full-width end washrooms. The 675 is a twin-axle version of the transverse island bed/end washroom 575 (Coachman's top-selling single model in 2022).

- **VIP prices start from £33,795**

Richard Chapman

Richard Chapman

coachman.co.uk

Laser

Richard Chapman

There are six 8ft-wide Laser models available for 2025: the 845 Xtra, 855 Xtra, 865 Xtra, and 875 Xtra, along with the smaller 545 Xtra and 575 Xtra. Each Laser is equipped with modern features such as soft-close drawers, reading lamps and chrome-plated taps. There's a Pioneer stereo system with digital radio. Plus, there's a convenient phone charger pad on the front bulkhead for easy access.

Among the improvements for each Laser for the year ahead are a 40-litre on-board water tank, reducing the need for frequent water refills.

For all Xtra models the sofas feature higher and more supportive backrests in a new design scheme, and the kitchens receive a practical new tap with a flexi design in black and chrome.

For the 845 Xtra model, which also features an L-shaped lounge, there is a dedicated TV viewing area instead of a window.

- **Laser prices start from £39,885**

Lusso

Coachman introduced the first of its stunning Lusso luxury tourers several years ago.

This year the British manufacturer revealed the third instalment for this range, completing the trilogy of Lusso tourers – with single and twin-axle models. Lusso I and II feature a full-width rear washroom and a transverse island bed layout, while the Lusso III offers two fixed single beds. Based on customer feedback, Coachman updated the Lusso III to provide a more comfortable setup, allowing caravanners to relax with their feet up. As a result, the Lusso III features a footstool, with an ottoman style, allowing items to be stored inside, therefore adding to the storage space in this model.

For the 2025 range, specifications lack for little, going all the way up to E&P's impressive remote control self-levelling system, underfloor fresh water tank, super-comfortable seating, 5G-ready WiFi, etc.

- **Lusso prices start from £47,535**

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Awards 2025
WINNER
BEST LUXURY CARAVAN
Coachman Lusso III
creation
Richard Chapman

Richard Chapman

elddis.co.uk/brands/elddis

Elddis 2025

A blend of generous equipment and competitive pricing for 2025

Affinity

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Caravan
Awards 2025
WINNER
BEST COUPLES' CARAVAN
Elddis Affinity 520
creation
affinity

The Affinity range has undergone some major changes for the 2025 season.

The exterior now includes a redesigned front and rear panel, lighter sidewalls, chrome grab handles, black alloy wheels, and an optional e-bike rack.

The interiors have also been updated with HaloTEC one-piece interior sides, new upholstery, kitchen splashback, taps, overhead lockers, hidden speakers and metal locks for cabinets.

Improved features also include a skylight blind in the living area, redesigned washrooms with improved shower cubicles and vanity sink, as well as Alde heating, which was upgraded last season.

The Affinity is a three-strong line-up of single-axle tourers. The range-topper is the 574, which has twin rear single beds behind a shower cubicle and toilet room that can also be closed off for full privacy, creating a full-width dressing area. It sleeps four but it gains most favour with couples who like permanent beds and a separate daytime seating area. The 550 includes an island double bed that can be retracted to free up floor space. The lounge area can also convert into a double bed using pull-out slats and seat cushions, or it can be arranged as two single beds. Lastly, the 520 is a two-berth tourer with a front lounge featuring twin sofas that convert into beds, and a spacious washroom and changing room at the rear.

- **Affinity prices start from £29,499**

Avante

Elddis currently offers six Avante models, spanning two to six berths and a mix of single and twin-axles. There are three models, with an 8-foot-wide body: the 840 (rear French bed with washroom alongside), 860 (rear transverse island bed), and 868 (French double/twin bunks). All Avantes come equipped with a range of features, including a Whale CompleteHeat system, ActivCare upholstery, retractable island double beds (where applicable), a Midi Heki opening rooflight, a Dometic 10 Series fridge, and a Thetford cooker with dual-fuel hob.

The rest of the lineup includes spacious layouts such as the 554 (a single-axle model with retractable island bed and rear bathroom), the 550 (featuring a rear island bed with separate washroom and shower cubicle), and the 520, a two-berth model featuring a front lounge, kitchen, and spacious rear washroom.

- **Avante prices start from £26,299**

Crusader

Elddis is celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of its Crusader range by introducing a special edition 60th Anniversary Diamond Edition Pack for this season's Crusader models. This includes new exterior graphics, updated upholstery, branded cushions, new sheet material scheme, washroom taps and metal paddle catches on cabinets.

The lineup includes five models: Aurora: a single-axle, four-berth tourer. Mistral: a single-axle, four-berth model with an island bed layout. Zephyr: a twin-axle model featuring a 6'3" retractable double bed. Borealis: a twin-axle, four-berth model with a corner lounge configuration. Additionally, there is the Tempest, a six-berth model that offers all the benefits of the Crusader range. It features a twin axle, high specifications, bunk beds, a front lounge that converts to either a double or two single beds, and a fixed rear double bed.

- **Crusader prices start from £35,699** eriba.com/gb/en

Eriba 2025

Welcome to the world of the extraordinary Eriba! Here you'll find many lightweight tourers with lots of options to personalise to your taste. For starters, look what's on the menu for those eye-catching Colour Editions

Touring

Eriba, the iconic German brand represented by the Erwin Hymer Group in the UK, has made no significant changes to its popular tourer ranges this year. However, last year it introduced three retro-inspired editions to the Touring range and added compact models with spacious interiors. The range features three special editions: Nugget Gold, Tango Red and Harbour Blue. These editions infuse the beloved retro charm of Eriba Touring with modern, eye-catching accent colours, adding a touch of contemporary style to the classic design. There are 12 models in the Touring range, offering many different layouts. The Touring range starts with the diminutive 5.06m long, 1,000kg maximum weight, three-berth 310. Equipment upgrades cover increased-capacity fridges, enhanced lighting, improved locker design and look, and more. If you want to further enhance that Touring style, check out the Chrome Package from an extensive list of optional extras. Other options bundles worth investigating include Comfort and Multimedial and II.

- **Touring prices start from £24,480**

Feeling

There are four models in the Feeling range, the 425, 442, 470 and 515. The 515 has a clear family-friendly design, featuring bunk beds at the back and a permanent double bed at the front. With options, you can sleep up to seven. The lounge sits aft of this, the washroom takes a corner just in front of the bunks and the kitchen is just inside the main entrance. All Feelings have a pop-top roof section, cold foam bed mattresses over wooden slatted bases, three-burner gas hobs, chassis weight upgrade options, Eriba-branded alloy wheels, etc, and options starting with a quartet of extra-value packages. The 425 has a transverse rear double, and a maximum weight of 1,200kg, yet still offers a 200kg payload.

- **Feeling prices start from £24,920**

Nova Light

Like its Feeling sister range, the latest member of the Nova Light range is the 515, which starts at £26,990. Like its stablemates, the Feelings, the 515 is a sub-7m range-topper that offers fixed beds front and back – a transverse double for the former, two bunks for the latter. A maximum weight of 1,400kg makes the 515 a particularly attractive proposition for families who don't want a hefty towcar. Again, there are lots of optional extras to consider. You might want to start with the Elegance Package, with its smooth silver sides and matching alloy wheels, drawbar cover and upgraded graphics, at £1,010.

- **Nova Light prices start from £25,360**

Knaus 2025

Discover the quality of Knaus, one of Germany's premier manufacturers

Yaseo

The Yaseo is engineered with a lightweight construction and incorporates space-saving techniques aimed at minimising both the caravan's weight and drag. One of the most remarkable features of the Yaseo is its all-electric and self-sufficient nature – it can be powered by electric hook-up or directly from an electric vehicle. The Yaseo's interior layouts are equally ingenious and sleep 2-5. Its multifunctional approach to sleeping and storage solutions means it can accommodate e-bikes securely during transport. There are two models, the two- berth 340PX and three/five-berth 500 DK.

● **Yaseo prices start from £21,730**

Sport

The 2025 Knaus Sport has undergone significant updates, including a new exterior design with smaller and brighter Knaus Cateye Evolution II tail lights featuring LED technology. The caravans now come in 10 different layouts and are lighter than ever, thanks to the Dyonic chassis, lightweight furniture construction and enhanced body design. This design makes them easier to tow and more fuel-efficient for your travels. Additionally, there are various updates such as new cookers (gas or induction), roof-mounted air-conditioning units and external LTE/WiFi antennas available for Knaus caravans.

Topping the Sport line-up is the £29,930 580 QS – a four-berth as standard but upgradable to six – with an unusual arrangement of transverse French bed at the front, longitudinal bunks in the rear nearside and a washroom in the opposite corner.

● **Sport prices start from £21,990**

Südwind

Knaus offers a variety of 16 Südwind models. These range from three-berth options like the 420 QD, 500 PF, 540 UE, 650 PXB, and 650 PEB to four-berth models such as the 450 FU, 460 EU, 500 UF, 500 FU, 500 EU, and 650 UX. There are also five/six-berth options like the 500 QDK, 540 FDK, 550 FSK, 580 QS and 650 FSK. Of the smaller models, the 460 EU has a rear lounge and twin beds at the front. The five/six-berth model, the 580 QS, features a fixed front bed and rear bunks that can be configured as a triple bunk for up to six people.

● **Südwind prices start from £39,680**

knaus.com/en-uk/caravans

North Star Selection

Richard Chapman

If you want a caravan that can withstand extremes of cold, run your eyes over the North Star Selection that represent a step up from the standard Südwinds. That's in terms of size as well as specification. Top of this threesome is the 8.07m-long, 2.50m-wide (check for towcar restrictions here) 590 UK, which can be specified to sleep up to eight!

- **Südwind North Star Selection prices start from £38,650**

Sport&Fun

Here's a caravan that will catch your eye – created for fun and adventure. It's built differently, too – with an extra-wide door at the back so that heavier loads can be accommodated, as well as a stable door side entrance. Even the roof has a 75kg load capacity, plus fixed ladder access. Total weight starts at 1,500kg, but the chassis can be replated to 1,600kg or 1,700kg – depending on your towcar as well as how much outdoor gear you want to take with you.

There's also the more premium, same layout Sport&Fun Black Selection with prices starting from £29,510.

- **Sport&Fun prices start from £27,290**

SPORT & FUN
SPORT & FUN

Deseo

Deseo is another example of Knaus daring to do things differently. Launched in 2007, it's as forward-looking now as it was back then.

The latest incarnation has been with us since 2016; a twin-axle just shy of 6m long that can cater for up to four but is also capable of carrying heavy items right up to motorbikes.

- **Deseo prices start from £35,400**

Azur

There's no doubting the impact of the Azur range. A quartet of four-berths, three of which put their beds at the front – 460 EU (singles), 500 FU (French) and 500 EU (singles). The top-of-the-range 540 UE also has fixed single beds, but they're at the rear.

Azur bodies break new ground with their "self-supporting Fibre Frame with FoldXpand technology", Knaus's terms for a rigid, bonded construction that's UV resistant and self-healing when it comes to small bumps and scrapes – also with pronounced curves front and back to optimise internal space. Inside, the fabric-covered walls create a hushed ambience.

- **Azur prices start from £41,820**

Swift 2025

From the adventurous Basecamp to the luxurious Elegance Grande, there is a Swift for everyone

Sprite Quattro MB

Richard Chapman

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Swift Sprite Quattro MB
creation
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WINNER
CARAVAN OF THE YEAR 2025
Swift Sprite Quattro MB
creation
SWIFT
SPRITE

The 2025 Caravan of the Year and Family Caravan of the Year, the Sprite Quattro MB features a spacious layout and advanced features.

This outstanding six-berth caravan is an excellent choice for families. It offers a perfect blend of comfort and practicality, ensuring enjoyable trips and quality time together. The flexible design features dual living and dining areas, a spacious kitchen, a full-sized shower room, a separate washroom, and a private bedroom. This makes it very attractive to families seeking both functionality and luxury at an affordable price.

- **Sprite Quattro MB prices start from just £28,495**

Elegance Grande

Last year, several new models were added to this highly popular luxury range. Of those are new four-berth models including the 780 (transverse island bed and rear washroom) and the 860 (longitudinal island bed).

The range for 2025 now compises five wide-bodied, twin-axle models, all with extra kit, including exterior full-cut diamond alloy wheels, graphite locker door with chrome detailing, new front and rear GRP panels, redesigned rear LED light cluster, and also a new external TV outlet.

All Elegance Grandes have island double beds – longitudinal for the 850 and 860 and transverse in the 780, 835 and 845, with the former and latter also having washrooms set across the full width of the rear.

What's particularly noteworthy about this range is the inclusion of premium features like Alde underfloor heating, while the addition of 4G WiFi will be welcomed by many buyers who want to stay connected when they're out touring.

- **Elegance Grande prices start from £43,495**

Richard Chapman

swiftgroup.co.uk

Challenger, Challenger Exclusive & Challenger Grande

Swift's bread-and-butter Challenger range has always represented an excellent blend of style, equipment and competitive pricing.

All models benefit from a full redesign that includes new furniture and soft furnishing colour schemes inside, as well as new external graphics and alloy wheels.

The Exclusive models (starting at £32,195) are enhanced versions of the standard Challenger and not only offer more layouts (nine) but also provide additional premium features.

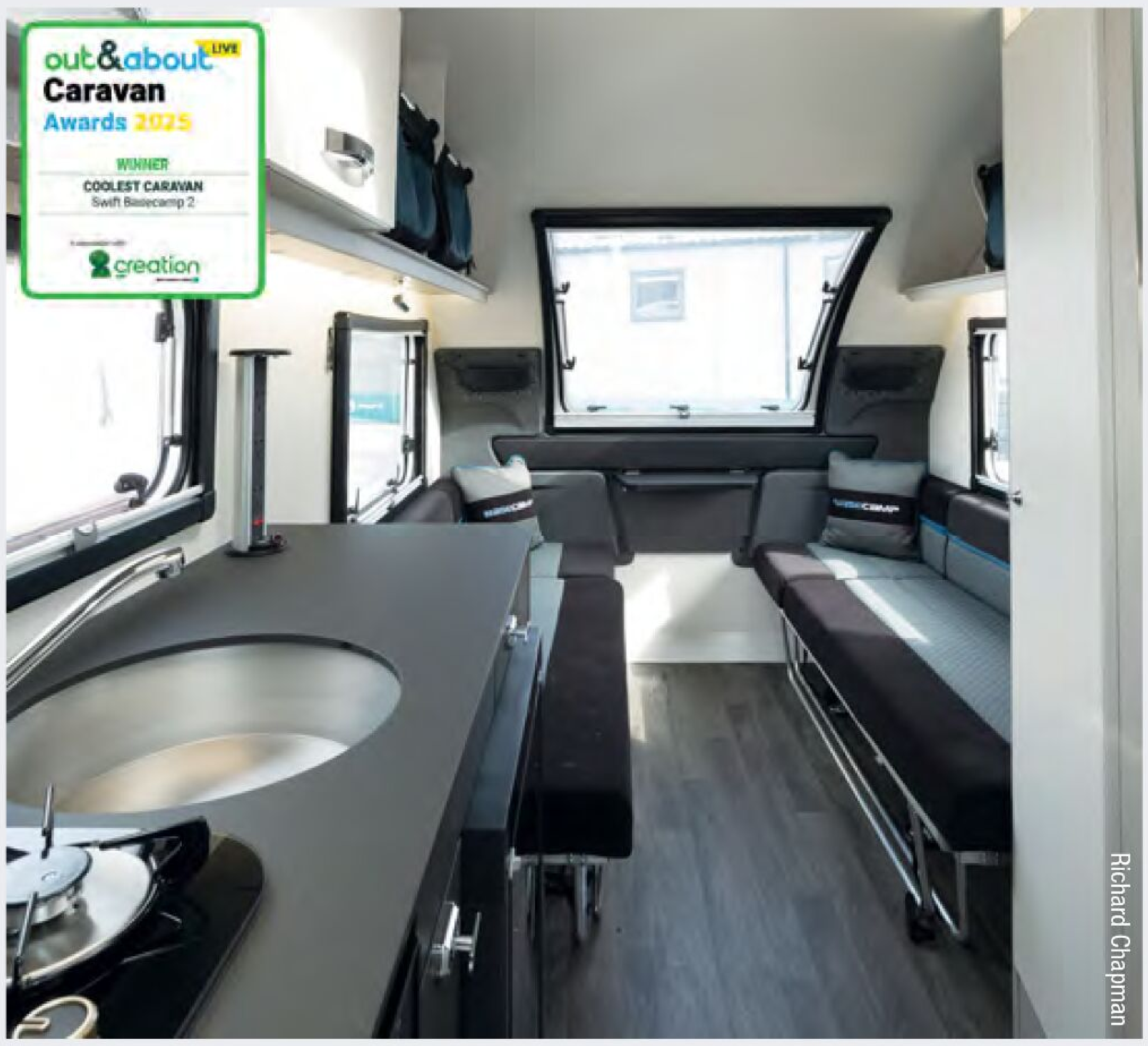
The five range-topping Grande models (from £36,145) offer a considerable uplift in terms of equipment, with the likes of Al-Ko chassis, heavy-duty corner steadies, wheel locks, mirrored wardrobe doors, kitchen Omnivent, external TV and cold water shower points, side lift jack and lots more (some kit is model dependent).

There is a premium to pay (varies on model) to upgrade to the Grande but, for many, it will be a price worth paying.

Challenger fans will also have noted a new SMART construction, Alde heating and Duvalay mattresses on the Grande models' fixed beds.

- **Challenger prices start from £30,345**

Basecamp



Richard Chapman

For 2025, the Basecamp range has new funky and stylish exterior colouring.

The range now includes three models: Basecamp 2 is a sporty two-berth; Basecamp 3 slots in between versions 2 and 4 as the latest addition to the range and offers three berths; and Basecamp 4, that (you guessed it) sleeps four.

All models boast features such as floor-mounted anchor points for bikes and exterior front lockers. If you want more living space, Vango's AirBeam RVA-2 inflatable awning is an option. It's bespoke to Basecamp and results in a caravan with significantly more space.

- **Basecamp prices start from £24,995**

xplore-rv.co.uk

Xplore 2025

Innovation and adventure combine in this range

XC Lite

The Xplore brand has been revamped for 2025, with bright and refreshing styling at competitive prices. New to the lineup is the XC Lite, a compact and lightweight caravan ideal for couples or small families. This two-berth model features a rear dinette that converts into a single bed, with an optional overhead bunk for added versatility, Its lightweight construction makes it easy to tow with various vehicles. The XC Lite offers practical and comfortable living space, ideal for short trips or new caravanners.

- **XC Lite prices start from £21,999**

XC Duo

The XC Duo is a versatile new addition, offering an adaptable two-berth layout. The front lounge can be converted into two single beds or a large double, while the rear kitchen is designed to maximise workspace and storage. This model is ideal for couples seeking a balance of comfort and practicality in a lightweight caravan. Its compact size and clever design make it a strong contender for those prioritising flexibility and comfort.

- **XC Duo prices start from £23,499**

XC Quad

The XC Quad model is the largest in its range, designed for adventure seekers who value comfort. At 6.38 meters long, it's ideal for families or couples looking for extra sleeping and living space. The rear double bedroom features a retractable transverse island bed that can be folded away to create more space during the day.

Additionally, the front seating area can be configured as either two single beds or one double bed, providing extra room when needed. The XC Quad combines quality and affordability with a lightweight design, making it perfect for outdoor enthusiasts who want convenience without compromise. The XC Quad is so good it was named the joint winner in the Best Caravan Under £30,000 category of the Out & About Live 2025 Awards.

- **XC Quad prices start from £25,499**

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Xplore XC Quad
creation
XPLORE

Micro tourers 2025

Tiny tourers that pack a punch

Campod

Nataly J Photography

Gloucester-based manufacturer, Campod, has partnered with iconic British brand, Laura Ashley, to create a retro-inspired caravan.

The collaboration brings together vintage charm and modern comfort, offering a fresh aesthetic inspired by traditional British countryside design. The exterior of the Laura Ashley Campod is adorned with intricate floral motifs, paying homage to the brand's legacy, while the interior reflects love for rural charm.

Designed for style and functionality, the caravan includes features like solid oak kitchen worktops and a double bed that easily transforms from the seating area.

Starting at £29,950, this unique collaboration enhances local craftsmanship and economy by drawing on nearby suppliers and skilled artisans in Gloucestershire. With its blend of innovation and elegance, the Laura Ashley Campod is set to make waves in the caravan market in 2025.

Barefoot

For 2025, Barefoot Caravans is building upon its success; these caravans feature a refined curved design and a durable fibreglass monocoque body for leak-free enjoyment. With a focus on sustainability, they are designed to be lightweight, aerodynamic and eco-friendly.

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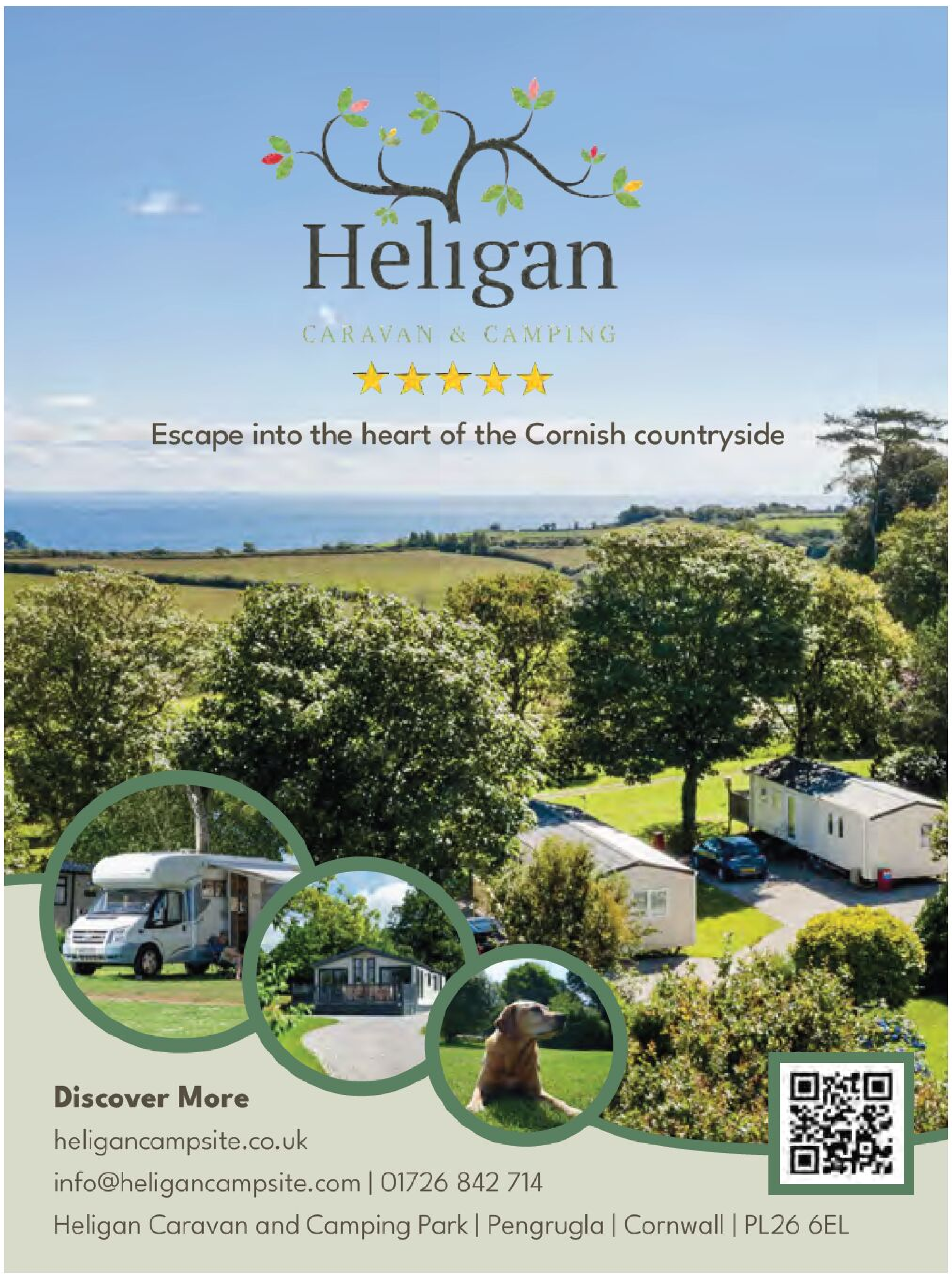

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Poughill, Bude, Cornwall EX23 9HJ
☎ 01288 352069 🖥 wooda.co.uk 📅 15 March – 16 November

On the north coast of Cornwall, close to the Devon border and only two miles from Bude and its sandy beaches, is Wooda Farm. Set in 100 acres of rolling farmland, with woodland trails, a farm shop, farm animals, a tennis court, fitness suite, pitch 'n' putt, fishing, badminton, a takeaway, restaurant and cocktail bar, there really is something for everyone here.

Wooda offers a variety of pitches, including grass or hardstanding with electric hook-up. There are also meadow pitches with sea views and premier hardstanding fully serviced pitches. The site is serviced by three toilet and shower blocks, private wash cubicles, family bathrooms, accessible facilities, plus a designated dog walking field and dog showers.

Concierge Camping

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Ratham Lane, West Ashling, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8DL
☎ 01243 573118
🖥 conciergecamping.co.uk
📅 All year

A stunning 37-pitch park with four safari lodges, close to Chichester, the Goodwood Estate, quality beaches and the South Downs National Park. Offering a superb personal service, this award-winning site was crowned AA Campsite of the Year 2024/25 for South East England, a title first awarded back in 2018, too.

Pitches are fully serviced hardstandings. One of the many standout features of this luxury park is its unique Gladiator and Emperor Pitches which include extra luxuries such as a day-living safari tent with dining area, and log burning stove and an en suite bathroom. The washrooms include individual shower suites with complimentary toiletries. Other facilities include a shop, a laundry room, washing-up area, dog wash facility, a coffee shop/bar, and on-site catering four nights a week.

Overbrook Caravan Park

Maltongate, Thornton-le-Dale, Pickering, N Yorkshire YO18 7SE
☎ 01751 474417
🖥 overbrookcaravanpark.co.uk
📅 1 March – 4 January

Overbrook Caravan Park is an adults-only, four-star site located in the picturesque village of Thornton-le-Dale in North Yorkshire.

Situated on the former railway station grounds, the site offers a tranquil retreat with 50 hardstanding pitches with electric, set amid mature trees, shrubs, and flower beds. Site facilities include toilets, showers, a licensed shop, laundry room, dog exercise area and dog shower.

The site is set on the very edge of the North York Moors National Park, making it an ideal base for outdoor enthusiasts. Guests can enjoy scenic walks and cycling routes, with Dalby Forest and the historic North York Moors Railway also nearby.

Thornton-le-Dale, just a short walk away, boasts traditional pubs, tea rooms and shops. Additionally, the coastal towns of Scarborough and Whitby are within easy reach for seaside excursions.

DEVON

castle brake

HOLIDAY PARK, DEVON

seasonal touring 2025

Still searching for the perfect pitch for 2025? Look no further than Castle Brake Holiday Park.

Nestled in tranquil woodland in the heart of East Devon, our seasonal pitches are fully serviced and hard standing. As a five star retreat, you'll enjoy superb facilities over our 8-month season for just £4,150. Nightly pitches also available.

***Quote code 'WMN25' for £150 off your seasonal pitch. Don't miss out, call us on 01395 232431.**

Castle Brake Holiday Park, Woodbury, Devon, EX5 1HA | 01395 232431 | castlebrake.co.uk | reception@castlebrake.co.uk |

*T&Cs apply

LADRAM BAY

Holiday Park, Devon

seasonal touring 2025

Choose the seaside serenity of Ladram Bay along the Jurassic Coast, where pitches offer stunning sea views and access to five-star facilities, including an indoor pool, private beach, and the newly refurbished Waves bar with evening entertainment.

***Quote code 'WMN25' for £150 off your seasonal pitch.
Don't miss out, call us on 01395 232431.**

Ladram Bay Holiday Park, Otterton, Devon, EX9 7BX | 01395 568398 | ladrambay.co.uk | info@ladrambay.co.uk |

*T&Cs apply

Whitehill Country Park

Stoke Road, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7PF ☎ 01803 782338
💻 whitehill-park.co.uk 📅 10 February – 2 November

Whether you're enjoying a peaceful couple's retreat, or a fun-filled family getaway, this site has everything you need right at your fingertips. Start with the breathtaking outdoor pool and the newly added indoor pool, both set against the backdrop of the idyllic Devon countryside. Join in bushcraft activities, take a stroll through private woodlands and explore scenic nature trails – perfect for stretching the legs, both yours and your dog's!

On-site amenities include a bar, restaurant with a terrace, takeaway services, a shop and a games room. Pitches are on grass or hardstanding, with electric hook-ups, and are supported by excellent facilities, including toilets, showers, family bathrooms and dishwashing areas.

For those eager to explore, the site is perfectly positioned with a bus stop at the gates. The English Riviera awaits just a short trip away – Paignton is three miles, while Torquay and Brixham are within six miles.

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Longnor Wood Holiday Park

Longnor, Buxton, Staffordshire SK17 0NG
☎ 01298 83648 💻 longnorwood.co.uk
📅 2 February – 3 January

Located within the Peak District National Park, Longnor Wood is an idyllic retreat for adults who love walking and cycling.

Just a short drive from the towns of Bakewell and Buxton, the campsite is surrounded by picturesque meadows and rolling hills. From the dog exercise meadow at the site entrance, you can enjoy breathtaking views of the valleys below.

The site offers all-weather hardstanding pitches with electric hook-ups, alongside a selection of fully serviced pitches. Guests have access to a heated amenities block, a laundry room and a dog wash. A small licensed shop offers added convenience.

Longnor, a quaint village less than two miles away, features a café, fish and chip shop and a bus service. Further afield, Bakewell offers riverside walks, independent shops and charming stone buildings, while Buxton invites you to explore its ornamental gardens and Georgian and Victorian architecture.

Hendre Mynach

Barmouth, Gwynedd LL42 1YR ☎ 01341 280262 💻 hendremynach.com 📅 1 March – 2 January

The closest site to Barmouth, just 100 metres from sandy Barmouth Beach, and you can also take a leisurely 20-minute walk into the town. Hendre Mynach is perfectly positioned along the Wales Coast Path, National Cycle Route 8 and at the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. This is therefore the ideal site for walkers and anyone who loves exploring the great outdoors. From the site you can enjoy breathtaking views of Cardigan Bay.

This is a family and dog-friendly park with heated toilet and shower facilities, a playground, and an on-site shop. With non-electric or fully serviced pitches available, choose to stay for the season or enjoy a short break.

To get the most from your break here, you should venture into the Snowdonia National Park, not only to enjoy the views on a walk up Snowdon but also to discover stunning beaches, gentle walks, family-friendly activities, and adrenaline-fuelled attractions.

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ESSEX

FEN FARM
CARAVAN SITE

Moore Lane, East Mersea, Colchester CO5 8FE
T: 01206 383275 • E: havefun@fenfarm.co.uk W: www.fenfarm.co.uk

Award winning tranquil park that is ideal for people looking for a relaxing family retreat, situated by the sea and close to a country park in a small village on Mersea Island. Dogs welcome.

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premier-parks.co.uk

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Forestry England

Bracelands Campsite

Bracelands Drive
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GL16 7NP

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www.posternhillcamping.co.uk

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Whether a camper or glamper, we've got everything you need for the perfect getaway. Nestled deep within the expansive Forest of Dean, on the banks of the River Wye and just minutes away from the Welsh border and the historic town of Monmouth. Our site offers miles of woodlands to explore with trails directly from site. Whether hiking, cycling or walking we offer amazing value for the whole family - pets come along for free! Why not join us this year and be welcomed by people dedicated to making your stay special.

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Email : info@bracelandscamping.co.uk
Website : www.bracelandscamping.co.uk
Tel : 01594 837258

HAMPSHIRE

A hidden gem on Hayling Island

HAYLING ISLAND
Fishery Creek
TOURING PARK

If you are looking for a seaside camping site in Hampshire on the south coast of England, Fishery Creek Touring Park is a tranquil oasis. It is situated on the stunning tidal creek connected to Langstone and Chichester Harbours, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Directly from a private slipway the creek is a fantastic place for swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding, launching small boats and fishing.

A short stroll from the park leads you directly to the beach. The long stretches of sand and pebble are perfect for dog walking, cycling, horse riding, picnics and even bird watching.

The nearby charming Hayling seaside mini railway also makes for a leisurely day out, running along the seafront to a funfair and arcade.

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T: 02392 462164 or 07852 340992 E: camping@fisherycreekpark.co.uk W: www.fisherycreekpark.co.uk

Wareham Forest Tourist Park

North Trigon, Wareham, Dorset BH20 7NZ ☎ 01929 551393 🖥 warehamforest.co.uk 📅 All year

Nestled in a peaceful woodland setting near the Jurassic Coast, this campsite offers a relaxing escape with easy access to local attractions such as Weymouth, Corfe Castle and the Abbotsbury Swannery. Guests can choose between hardstanding or grass touring pitches with electric hook-ups, while super pitches include their own water tap and waste disposal point. Modern toilet blocks feature fully accessible facilities, showers and private wash cubicles, alongside a laundry and dishwashing area. The on-site licensed shop ensures you have all the essentials.

For recreation, enjoy the outdoor heated pool (open from late May to early September), table tennis and an adventure playground. Pet owners will love the enclosed exercise area and the extensive trails of the forest, spanning 14 square miles, accessible directly from site. After exploring, pamper your pet with a warm dog wash and some doggy ice cream from the shop.

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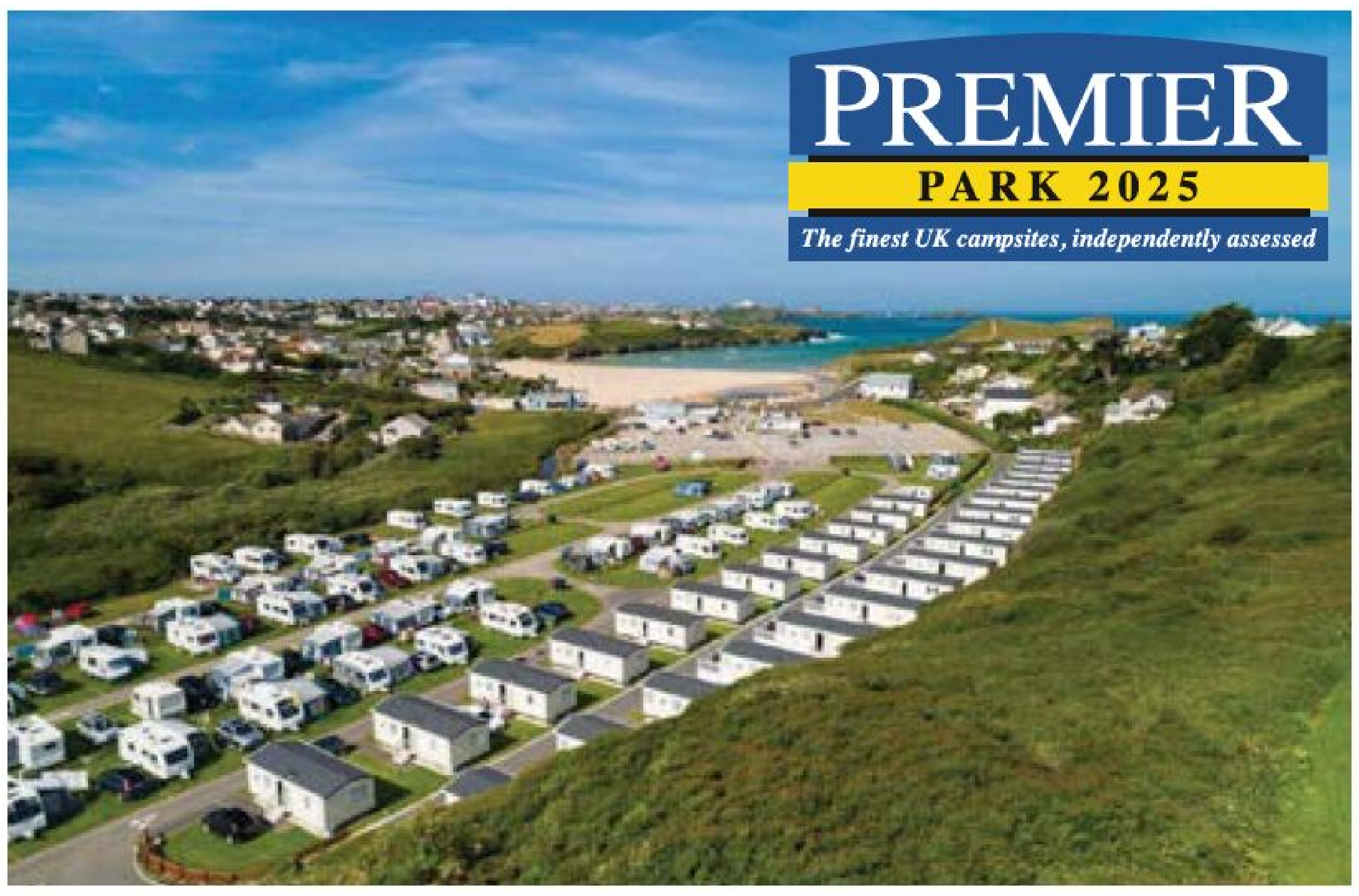
Porth Beach Holiday Park



Porth Beach, Newquay, Cornwall TR7 3NH
☎ 01637 876531 🖥 porthbeach.co.uk
📅 3 March – 2 November

For a coastal holiday in Cornwall, the surf capital, Newquay, has got to be on the list of must-sees. You might not want to be pitched up among all the action, though, so Porth Beach Holiday Park, one and a half miles from central Newquay, gives you easy access to the main resort, but in a tranquil tree-lined valley. The campsite is also just a few yards from the golden sands of Porth Beach, from where you can access the South West Coast Path and walk into Newquay if you so desire, or you can take the bus from outside the site's entrance.

Porth Beach Holiday Park has grass or hardstanding pitches with electric hook-up. Premium pitches alongside the riverbank come with their own personal water supply, hook-up and waste water drainage. Site amenities include toilets and showers, accessible facilities and a launderette.

Hawthorn Farm

Station Road, Martin Mill, Dover, Kent CT15 5LA
☎ 01304 852658 🖥 keatfarm.co.uk
📅 12 February – 30 November

Spread across 28 acres of landscaped grounds with ornamental and fruit trees, Hawthorn Farm offers a peaceful rural setting surrounded by fields, yet just five miles from Dover and within walking distance of a train station. You can be in the historic city of Canterbury in just 30 minutes, while coastal walks are only two miles away. A nearby bus stop and a pub serving food within walking distance add to the convenience.

The campsite features approximately 200 touring pitches, including 15 hardstandings, all equipped with electric hook-ups. There are toilet and shower facilities, an accessible/family wet room, and the convenience of an on-site laundry room. A shop, café and takeaway further enhance the options available. Whether you're looking to relax and unwind, or need a convenient stopover before catching a ferry from Dover, Hawthorn Farm is the ideal destination.

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01622 844388 / 01622 842096

E: thefinchescaravanandcampingsite@yahoo.com

Web: www.kingswood-caravans.co.uk

All amenities in an ideal Kent location—just 2 miles from J8 of the M20. Hardstanding for all caravans as well as electricity to all pitches, showers, toilets, washing up room, laundry room, games room and wheelchair friendly wet room.

KENT

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WWW.THEHOPFARM.CO.UK/STAY

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The Hop farm is a superb award winning touring and campsite set in over 500 acres of beautiful open fields and woodland. Riverside camping also for kayakers and paddleboarders! It is one of the best Kent campsites and has a spectacular Oast village, the largest Oast house collection in the world - it's the ultimate backdrop and a fantastic base for exploring Kent's Garden of England.

You can enjoy the best in camping in a glorious setting with all the creature comforts you need. We have showers, toilets and washing facilities, a camping shop and on-site popular pub/restaurant. Ideal for families and great local amenities nearby.

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NORTHUMBERLAND

HERDING HILL FARM

CAMPING AND GLAMPING SITE

Shield Hill, Haltwhistle, Northumberland, NE49 9NW
T: 01434 320165 E: bookings@herdinghillfarm.co.uk
W: www.herdinghillfarm.co.uk

AA Platinum Pennant Northumberland campsite nestled in the shadow of Hadrian's Wall. Rugged scenery and spectacular walking. Quiet, dark sky friendly campsite. Scenic dog walk and gorgeous sunsets. Touring and tent pitches with electric, some serviced. Family friendly Wigwam cabins (some with toilet and hot tub), luxury adults only en-suite Castle Pods with hot tub and lodge with hot tub. 5-star amenity block with dog wash, laundry, indoor campers' kitchen and sauna. Licensed shop selling breakfast and BBQ packs and local produce. Pizzas available in season. Fire pits and BBQs available for hire. Animal petting farm and children's playground. BBQ hut for hire. Real ale pub 0.5 miles. Haltwhistle 1.5 miles. Hadrian's Wall bus stops at campsite entrance. Open all year.

Herding Hill Farm

Shield Hill, Haltwhistle, Northumberland NE49 9NW
☎ 01434 320175 🖥 herdinghillfarm.co.uk 📅 All year

Situated just a mile from Hadrian's Wall in the stunning Northumberland countryside, Herding Hill Farm is a peaceful retreat offering serviced hardstanding pitches for caravans. The site is perfect for dark sky stargazing and provides direct walking access through fields to nearby Haltwhistle, where you'll find shops, pubs and a train station.

Facilities include modern toilets and showers, a children's play park and a petting farm. For added comfort, guests can hire fire pits, book a cosy barbecue hut, or enjoy private use of the on-site sauna.

Explore the rich history of Hadrian's Wall with nearby attractions such as Housesteads Roman Fort and Vindolanda. The Hadrian's Wall National Trail, stretching 84 miles, offers opportunities for both long and shorter scenic walks. For family-friendly outings, Walby Farm Park and Talkin Tarn Country Park are less than a 30-minute drive from the site.

Widdicombe Farm

Ring Road (A380), Marldon, Torquay, Devon TQ3 1ST
☎ 01803 558325 🖥 widdicombefarm.co.uk
📅 1 April – 26 October

Widdicombe Farm is an adults-only touring park with easy access from the main road so there are no narrow lanes to negotiate. The site is set near the English Riviera coast with the resorts of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham all within easy reach. Inland, the National Trust's Compton Castle, a fortified manor house with towers and portcullis, is less than a mile away.

The site offers standard all-weather pitches with electric, or you can upgrade to a full service or premium pitch. There are toilets, showers and wet room-style facilities, plus a laundry room and dog exercise field. The site shop sells essential items and there's also a licensed restaurant with takeaway service. Widdicombe Farm is well known for its on-site bar, where there is live entertainment several nights of the week at Easter and from the end of May to the end of September. Acts include singers and musicians.

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Pentewan Sands

Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6BT ☎ 01726 843485 🖥 pentewan.co.uk 📅 24 March – 28 October

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Location, location, location! This is one reason why five-star Pentewan Sands makes our list of ideal sites. It's right on the beach – some pitches are a few footsteps from the sand. These get snapped up quickly, though, so make sure you book early.

Pentewan has everything you could need on site – two indoor pools, tennis courts, water sports, a supermarket and plenty of places to eat.

We feel that two of the refreshment establishments are pretty special, too. Firstly, there's The Seahorse, a restaurant and bar with an al fresco terrace with views over Mevagissey Bay.

The second is the Hub Box beach shack. The Hub Box brand has restaurants in Plymouth, Exeter, Truro and at Pentewan Sands. Set directly on the beach, the menu here uses the finest Cornish ingredients to offer handmade burgers, gourmet hotdogs and other barbecue specials slow smoked over hickory wood chips. Keep an eye out for the specials board featuring crab and lobster treats in the summer.

Oakdown Touring & Holiday Caravan Park

PREMIER
PARK 2025
The finest UK campsites, independently assessed

Gatedown Lane, Weston, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0PT
☎ 01297 680387 🖥 oakdown.co.uk 📅 21 March – 2 November

Oakdown is a multi-award-winning site offering a peaceful and luxurious retreat, close to the beaches and coastal paths of east Devon's Jurassic Coast. With pitches nestled in beautifully landscaped grounds, you can choose between pitches with electric hook-ups or fully serviced options. The site's facilities include toilet and shower blocks, a launderette, a café, a dog wash, play areas and a nine-hole pitch and putt course. Dogs are welcome on site and there is a hot water dog shower and plenty of choice for local walking.

With secluded coves and fascinating rock pools, the area's popular beaches cater to all interests. If relaxing on the beach isn't your style, but you enjoy scenic walks, the South West Coast Path, which runs along this stretch of Devon, is the perfect choice. Just a mile away from the campsite, Devon's famous Donkey Sanctuary is easily accessible via a walking trail for those who love to explore on foot.

Drummohr Holiday Park

Musselburgh, Edinburgh, East Lothian EH21 8JS
☎ 01316 656867 🖥 drummohr.co.uk 📅 All year

Drummohr provides the perfect base to explore Scotland's capital. Nestled in peaceful countryside next to a golf course and just half a mile from the coastal path, the site offers a tranquil retreat with excellent connections to the city. Wallyford Park and Ride or the train station are less than a mile away.

Drummohr features grass and hardstanding pitches with electric hook-ups, along with a small selection of fully serviced pitches. Guests can enjoy two well-equipped amenity blocks, covered dishwashing areas and laundry facilities.

For local attractions, the Prestongrange Museum is just half a mile away. This free, 400-year-old industrial site showcases the remnants of glassworks, a pottery, colliery and brickworks, now home to a diverse range of wildlife. A mile from the site, Musselburgh Lagoons offers an excellent spot for birdwatching along the picturesque coastline.

Heligan Caravan & Camping Park

PREMIER
PARK 2025
The finest UK campsites, independently assessed

St Ewe, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6EL ☎ 01726 842714
🖥 heligancampsite.com 📅 31 January – 16 November

Rated five pennants by the AA, five stars by VisitEngland, and a member of the high-quality campsite group, Premier Parks, Heligan Caravan and Camping Park is something special. Not only is the site outstanding, but its location, right next to the famed Lost Gardens of Heligan, make for a magical getaway.

Guests staying on site can enjoy discounted entry into the gardens which were uncovered and restored to now provide 200 acres of gardens, grounds, woodland and wildlife. The estate also has a shop, food hall, plant sales, restaurant and takeaway. The gardens are also dog friendly. The touring area at Heligan offers grass pitches, or hardstanding with electric and a spacious grass surrounding. There are modern toilet and shower facilities with private shower rooms, a laundry room and a dog shower. Heligan also holds a Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence and was previously awarded bronze in the Cornwall Tourism Awards.

OXFORDSHIRE

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www.siwssfarmhenley.co.uk Telephone 01491 573 419

Family owned and run by the Borlase family since 1946 this five star, landscaped Henley on Thames Touring & Camping park in the Oxfordshire countryside is perfectly placed for guests wishing to visit London, Windsor & Oxford. The park is a short walk from the beautiful town of Henley on Thames with it's fine shops and famous Royal Regatta course. Explore the area or relax on site and enjoy our wonderful facilities, walk by the Thames or cycle in the Chiltern Hills.
Our touring park has been fully refurbished over the last few years and boasts spacious all weather and fully serviced pitches, all ideally equipped to accommodate small to large vehicles.

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SCOTLAND

DRUMMOHR
CAMPING AND GLAMPING SITE

Musselburgh, Edinburgh. EH21 8JS
T: 0131 665 6867 E: admin@drummohr.co.uk W: www.drummohr.co.uk

Dog-friendly 5-star campsite near Edinburgh, close to the shores of the Firth of Forth. Easy access by bus or train into Edinburgh. Musselburgh 2 miles. Choice of East Lothian beaches and golf courses nearby. Beautifully landscaped in the grounds of an old monastery. Excellent local walks including access to the John Muir Way. Grass and hard-standing tent and touring pitches, all with electric. Some seasonal pitches available. Luxury holiday lodges, some with hot tubs and family friendly glamping pods and bothies. Newly refurbished 5-star amenity blocks with baths, laundry and indoor campers' kitchen. Licensed shop selling local produce, on-site dog walk and children's playground. Fire pits and BBQs for hire. Quiet site policy after 10.30pm. Open all year so ideal for Edinburgh Christmas markets and Hogmanay celebrations.

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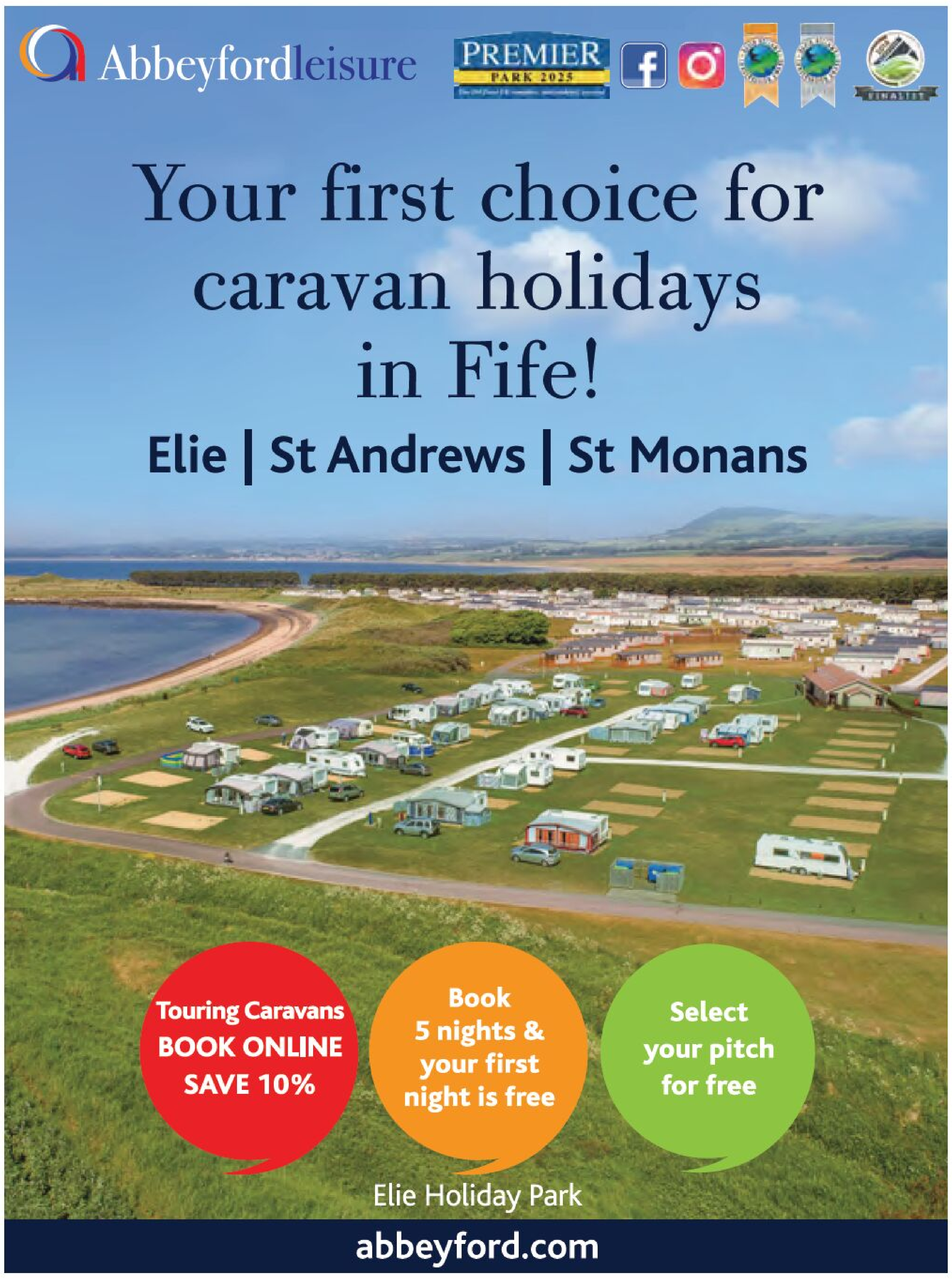

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• **www.conciergecamping.co.uk** •

Making caravanning **affordable**

Buying your caravan out of income rather than capital is a great idea that works for many purchasers. We look at finance options and offer tips on how to budget for your caravanning holidays and breaks

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with a great
finance
deal
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How much you have available to spend on a caravan may depend on the way you finance it. Just like buying a car, there are lots of options. You could arrange a loan through your bank or through a caravan dealer. But there are also many other options out there.

BUYING ON FINANCE

Black Horse is the market leader in providing finance for caravan purchases, offering a range of options including spreading the payments over a period of between one and 10 years. Most caravan retailers have dedicated finance managers who will give detailed advice, and will also submit your loan application for you.

Buying on finance means you decide how much you're comfortable with spending each month, and then tailor the length of the agreement to that figure.

So, if you can afford to pay more per month, you can choose an agreement over a shorter period, and the caravan will be paid off in fewer years. Or, if you prefer to spend a lower figure per month, you can take the agreement over more years, up to a maximum of 10.

Finance can be arranged on both new and used caravans, provided that the caravan is less than 20 years old at the end of the agreement.

You will pay more for your caravan by buying it on finance than by buying it outright from cash or savings. But it's all about deciding what's right for you, your level of income, how you use that income and budget, and whether you prefer to keep savings intact.

Buying on finance can make caravanning affordable in a different way than by depleting your capital reserves. Think of it this way: take the monthly figure you can comfortably afford. Now add to that a figure per month that you can set aside for holidays and short breaks. That's simply fuel and site fees. And that's your caravanning budget accounted for. You can eat in the caravan, rather than eating out, so caravanning costs no more in terms of food than being at home. And the cost of holidays and short breaks can be tailored to your budget in two ways: distance and site fees. That is to say, the less you travel, the lower the fuel bill, and, the fewer facilities a site has, the less you'll have to pay per night or per week.

Being a member of a Club gets you great deals on campsites. Both the Caravan and Motorhome Club and the Camping and Caravanning Club offer discounted site fees

PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE (PCP)

Personal contract Purchase offers flexibility in a number of ways. There are three elements to these personal contract purchase offers: deposit, payments and final repayment.

Within those three elements there are a number of choices. You can choose how much deposit you want to pay. You can choose the number of years (one to five) over which you'd like to spread payments. At the end of the agreement, you can buy the caravan, part-exchange it (subject to the settlement of your finance agreement) for another caravan, or return the caravan and avoid the final repayment. If the caravan is in good condition, you will have nothing more to pay. PCP is currently available on new caravans only.

When you buy a model on PCP there are a few rules: you must buy fully comprehensive insurance for the caravan; it must be maintained to the manufacturer's terms; you need to keep it in a condition matching the fair wear and tear policy (to ensure you get the full worth at the end of the term). Remember that you do not own the caravan until the final payment including interest has been made and, finally, the caravan must be used for leisure purposes only and cannot be used as your main dwelling.

to their members, plus more benefits, including money off ferry crossings and savings from partner retailers – that's anything from tourist attractions to wine and dog beds!

In terms of budgeting, all you have to add in is the cost of your caravan's annual service (which is typically between £200 and £300), and insuring it. One huge advantage of buying on finance is that you can get the caravan of your dreams before you've saved up for it.

LOANS FROM A BANK OR ONLINE

There are a number of websites through which you can apply for a loan for a caravan. Most have calculator systems, so you can work out what your monthly payments would be over a given period of time, and then adjust it to suit your own personal financial circumstances.

Be prepared to fill in information about yourself, your employment and your financial situation. Depending on how far you have progressed through this process, be prepared for a credit check to be carried out on you – if you have several credit checks in a short period, this may adversely affect your rating.

Look carefully at the cost of interest and fees. This is given in what's called the APR (annual percentage rate). This is the figure you will need when comparing deals. The APR may vary according to an applicant's financial situation.

You can also apply to your bank for a loan on a caravan. You can borrow some or all of the value (depending on how you finance the deposit) and then make monthly payments to your bank. At the end of the agreement, you own the caravan.

HIRE PURCHASE

Most people are familiar with buying on hire purchase. You can apply online. It's quite simple: you choose a caravan and then apply for hire purchase to finance it. Once approved, the hire purchase company pays the dealer for the caravan. You make monthly payments, which are likely to include interest charges, to the hire purchase company until you have paid the total amount. At the end of the repayment period, you own the caravan.

USING YOUR SAVINGS

Clearly the advantage to using your savings is that you pay no interest. But the disadvantage is that you are depleting your capital. You may want to consider taking part of the sum on finance (or paying some of it on a credit card for the added protection), so that you retain capital and pay the rest out of income. There are so many options for you to consider.

BUYING ON A CREDIT CARD

It is possible to pay for a caravan on a credit card (provided your credit limit is appropriate to cover the cost), although it's only sensible to do this if you are taking advantage of interest-free periods.

These can range from between 18 and 36 months. Be aware that some caravan retailers may charge a fee for using a credit card to purchase a caravan.

Buying this way can provide added protection that buying with cash does not give you, so check what these added protections provide. This could be especially useful if the dealer you're buying from goes out of business after you've paid a deposit but before you take delivery. The key if buying on a credit card is to ensure that you repay the full amount before the interest-free period ends.

CREDIT CARD
1234 5678 9012 3456
12/7

pui_bunny/shutterstock

CALCULATING FINANCE OPTIONS

A helpful starting point is *Caravan*'s website **outandaboutlive.co.uk** and the finance calculator from Auto Finance Online, which you will find when you click on a listing in the Caravans For Sale section.

The quick-quote panel asks you to select the amount you'd like to borrow and then the number of years over which you'd like to pay it back. The system then displays the monthly payment, the full repayable amount including interest, and the cost of credit.

The system will then take you to the Auto Finance Online website where more detail emerges. It tells you that, to borrow £15,000 over five years, for example, the exact monthly payment depends on your credit rating. The next window on the website invites you to fill in your details and apply for a loan.

CREDIT RATING

Finance deals vary, so shop around. Everything depends on your credit rating, and Auto Finance Online's Caravan Finance Guide page offers a selector system into which you can put the amount you want to borrow and the number of years – and the window below this allows you to select your credit rating (if you know it), from 'excellent' to 'bad'.

From this, you will see that the rate goes up from 9.9% if your credit rating is excellent, progressively, to 29.9% if you select a credit rating of bad.

The total amount payable and your monthly payments are displayed for each of the credit ratings you select.

Caravan **insurance**

Looking after your investment is key

Words & photography: Lee Davey

The insurance marketplace is vast and, as consumers, we are well-versed in insuring everything from the pets we adore to the houses we live in. However, does this peace of mind extend to your caravan insurance policy?

We'll examine touring caravan insurance policies in more detail, including the types of cover available, whether all caravan insurance policies are the same, and the sizeable discounts you may automatically be entitled to.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Much like our insurance policies for homes, cars, pets and other items, caravan insurance covers your touring caravan against certain insurable risks. These risks include theft and accidental damage, with some policies encompassing your caravanning essentials, such as awnings, motor movers, air-conditioning units, barbecues, etc. Insurers can also tailor cover to suit caravans permanently sited on a seasonal pitch.

DO I NEED CARAVAN INSURANCE?

Legally, no, you do not need to have insurance for your caravan but it would be a mistake not to have it. So, it's worth covering a few points in greater detail to explain why.

If your car insurance policy covers you while towing (most policies do, but you should always check), damage caused to a third party is likely covered. This is the legal minimum required while on the move. However, your car insurance policy will not cover any damage to your caravan, even if you have comprehensive cover.

Caravans can be quite an investment, so it's important to get dedicated insurance. This is not a one-size-fits-all solution; there are numerous factors that underwriters take into account when determining the cost of your policy. This means that no two quotes will be identical, each caravan and its owner have unique circumstances. As a rough guide, it costs me a few hundred pounds per year to insure my Bailey caravan, which has a motor mover and an air-conditioning unit.

WHAT'S COVERED?

Even experienced caravanners can encounter low-hanging branches, rocks obscured in roadside undergrowth, or posts on a campsite pitch. Thankfully, caravan insurance covers

ABOVE
A-new-for old policy will cover the full replacement cost of your caravan, which can run into tens of thousands of pounds

FAQ

- **Does car insurance cover a caravan while it's being towed?**
Most comprehensive car policies cover the caravan while it is being towed but always check with your car's insurance company. This can cover you for third-party risks, such as if your caravan collides with another vehicle while being towed. Any damage to the caravan will only be covered by a caravan insurance policy, not your car policy.
- **Are you covered if the person towing the caravan becomes ill?**
Yes, some do. It is common for only one person in a family or couple to tow the caravan, and insurance companies recognise this; a mere sprained ankle can render a driver unable to drive. Some policies will arrange to bring your caravan home if this occurs during your holiday.
- **Does the age of my caravan matter?**
Some companies insure caravans up to 25 years old, while others may cover a 30-year-old caravan. This can very between insurers, so contact multiple companies if you're struggling to insure a vintage caravan.
- **Can I include personal possessions on a caravan insurance policy?**
Yes, although it may be worth checking your house insurance policy to avoid duplicate cover. Things to look at include policy exclusions, such as specified items, and the excess amount for each policy type.
- **Will my caravan insurance policy cover friends or family who wish to borrow our caravan?**
Certain policies can extend cover to friends or family who are borrowing your caravan. However, ensure cover is in place before they embark on a holiday.
- **Which companies offer specialist caravan insurance?**
Among the best-known, and in no particular order, are Lifesure, Caravan Guard, Ripe, Shield Total Insurance, Caravanwise, Grove & Dean, Adrian Flux, Safeguard, Towergate, Coast and the two major Clubs.

accidental damage.

It can also cover you in the event of a road accident. Again, we need to reference towing experience here; experienced folk know they have to lessen speed on downhill gradients and allow room when cornering to avoid clipping a tight kerb, but accidents do happen.

Even though experienced caravanners know the hazards of towing in high winds, there are occasions when that is unavoidable. For example, you may be unable to delay your return to work to wait for high winds to subside. Plus, high winds may develop when you are on a journey. You keep the speed down, of course, but gusts can happen, and accidents can result.

BELOW
Even older caravans can be costly to fix or replace if they get damaged, lost, or stolen

Storm damage is another covered risk. Severe hailstorms can harm the roof of your caravan, fencing panels can break free in high winds and collide with your caravan, and should an awning collapse or partially collapse, its poles can wreak havoc with caravan side panels.

Caravan insurance, however, isn't all about towing and touring. If your caravan is sited in one place on a seasonal pitch, site owners will likely want to see a copy of your insurance policy, as most have a rule that all caravans on the campsite must be insured.

Theft is a worrying thought for any owner, as it can result in the loss of valued possessions. While it's unsettling to think that your prized items could be stolen, having insurance can offer peace of mind. This coverage helps policyholders recover financially by covering costs related to damage or replacement, making them feel more secure about their investments.

Caravanning kit (awnings, barbecues, outdoor furniture, motor movers, TVs, AC units, etc) can also be expensive, although a dedicated policy can include these items if specified.

TYPES OF CARAVAN INSURANCE

Two common types of cover are new-for-old and market value.

New-for-old cover means that your caravan is insured for its full replacement cost with a new caravan. Insurance companies typically offer this cover for caravans up to a specified age, usually 15 years old.

Market value cover means the caravan is insured for its current retail value. Because caravans tend to hold their values better than cars, etc, checking your caravan's value at renewal time is essential.

CARAVAN INSURANCE DISCOUNTS

As a caravanner, I'm not a fan of spending money unnecessarily. Thankfully, serious discounts can be had on policy costs, many of which you may already qualify for. The list below comes from the insurer I use for my own caravan. Discounts may vary among different brokers and insurance companies, but it shows the potential for savings.

- Up to 25% no claims discount
- 15% discount for an approved tracking device
- Up to 15% secure storage discount
- 10% discount for axle wheel locks
- 10% CaSSOA silver/gold storage
- 5% discount for an electronic anti-snaking device (Al-Ko ATC, etc)
- Up to 5% security marking discount (5% VIN Chip Plus, or 2.5% other security marking)
- 5% tyre safety discount. Tyron bands, or TMPS, or tyre sealant
- 5% discount for a caravan reversing aid. Reversing cameras or reversing sensors, not your partner or child!

Quotes depend not just on the value of the caravan but also on where it is stored when not in use. Caravan storage facilities that have the maximum CaSSOA (Caravan Storage Site Owners' Association) security rating, for example, will likely attract a discount on your premium regardless of the insurer. As with house and car insurance, the area you live in (if you store your caravan at home) has a bearing on the cost.

The cost of a policy is also influenced by the security devices you have. Wheel clamps and hitch locks are mandatory for most policies, and this combination may be the minimum security required. It's worth noting that security products have to be approved to attract a discount. Your insurer will have a list of such products, so it's worth getting in touch before opting for a particular make and model of security product.

BAILEY
PHOENIX

ABOVE
Insurance cover for taking your caravan over the Channel should be standard but check before you travel

Al-Ko's ATC is a handy addition. ATC stands for automatic trailer control, and it is designed to detect a snaking motion when towing before automatically applying the caravan brakes. It aims to straighten the caravan before the snaking motion becomes serious.

WHAT IS AN INSURANCE EXCESS?

Simply put, an insurance excess is the amount you must pay in the event of a claim. This can vary, with typical amounts being £100, £250, or £500. Choosing a higher excess amount may lower your premium.

EUROPEAN CARAVAN TRAVEL

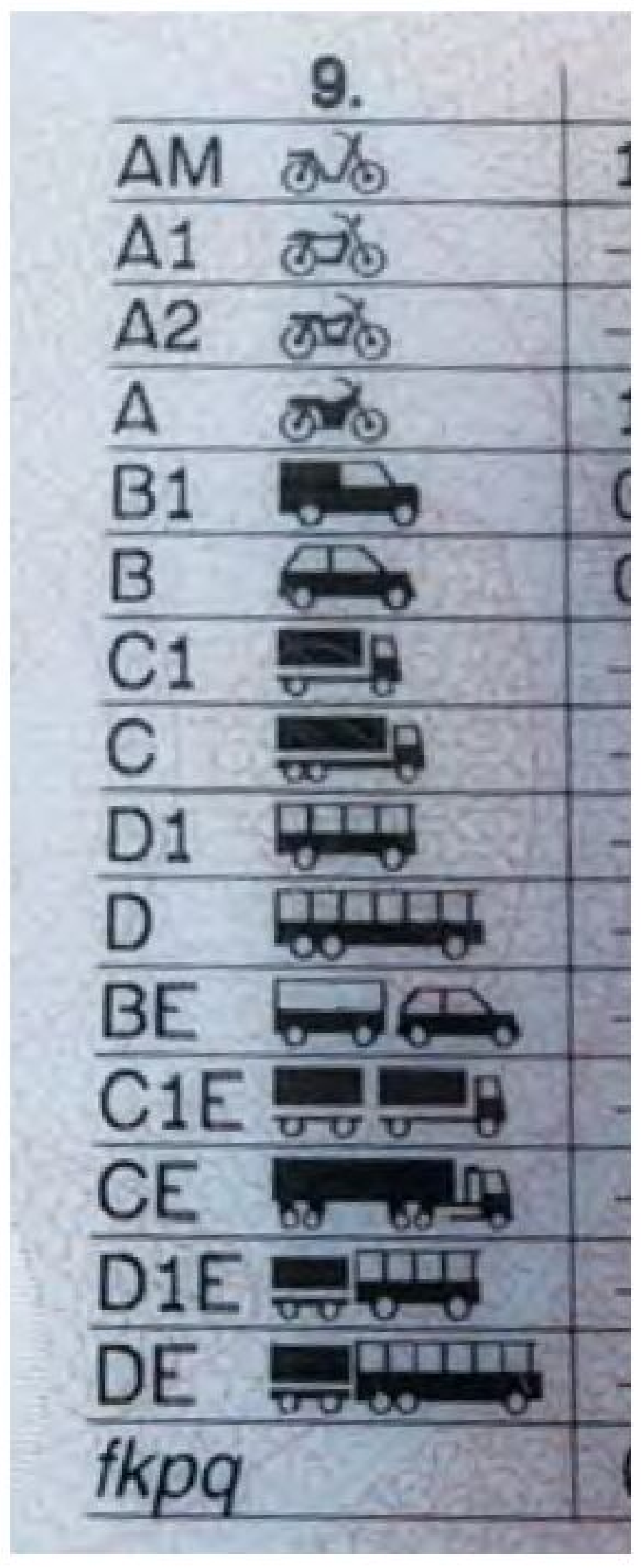
It's commonplace for caravan insurance policies to include European travel cover, but make sure this cover is in place before visiting the near Continent and beyond. My own policy includes 180 days of European cover per year, which can be extended to 240 days. Check the small print on your policy before travelling abroad, as it will likely ask you to adhere to European travel rules on **gov.uk** for the policy to remain in force.

ARE ALL POLICIES THE SAME?

In short, no. Check the small print before accepting a quotation to ensure it meets your needs. Some insurers may not offer cover for a specific item of equipment, or the insurable risks may not be as comprehensive as another policy.

Before signing on the dotted line, make a cup of tea and read through the small print, including the policy section that details what's covered and what's not. Taking a few moments to check these areas can save you hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds. The cheapest isn't always the best.

ABOVE
You may get a discount if you have an HGV licence, or experience driving larger vehicles



WHAT MIGHT NOT BE COVERED?

This is based on my own policy and experiences, so this list isn't exhaustive. It does, however, include the potted highlights.

- Frost damage to permanent water or heating installations
- Damage by animals, including pets or vermin
- Tyre damage (although a new tyre will likely cost less than your insurance excess)
- Water ingress

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET A CARAVAN INSURANCE QUOTE?

- Caravan details. Make, model, and how many berths, ie Bailey Phoenix GT75 762, six-berth
- Caravan and equipment values. The cost of your caravan plus any kit fitted (including awnings, etc) can soon add up, so make sure these values truly reflect the replacement cost
- Storage information. Do you keep your caravan at home or in a dedicated storage yard? You'll need the full address and details of any security features
- Caravan security devices. List the security features fitted – hitch lock, wheel lock, axle lock, tracker, etc – and ensure you always fit the items mentioned. If you have a tracker, the subscription will need to be active
- Caravan safety devices. Do you have Al-Ko ATC, TPMS (tyre pressure monitoring system), or a reversing camera?
- Insurance cover start date. When would you like the cover to start?
- CRiS number or VIN. This is usually a 17-digit mixture of letters and numbers on a window sticker. Or, it may be etched onto your caravan's chassis or window.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Although not a legal requirement, caravan insurance is vital to protect your tourer and the associated equipment you take on holiday. No matter how careful, accidents can happen, and such cover offers peace of mind, even if an incident isn't your fault. Specialist insurers, know the caravan market inside out, so it's worth contacting them for a competitive quote.

There are several obstacles at a campsite that can potentially damage your caravan

Yackers1/istockphoto.com

EXPERT ADVICE: INDUSTRY INSIDERS SHARE THEIR TOP TIPS

NEW-FOR-OLD

Tom Doy, Product & Underwriting Development Manager Adrian Flux says to check your new-for-old cover. "You will have to enter the value as what a brand-new replacement would be worth and not the current market value to be covered correctly. Remember, there are limited insurers that will offer new-for-old if the caravan is more than 10 years old. So always check both levels of cover (new-for-old and market value) to get the best prices available."

TRIO OF TIPS

Liz Harrison from Caravan Guard Insurance offers three tips covering discounts, insured values and customer reviews. "When it comes to caravan insurance there are loads available, ranging from those for caravan security and safety devices, to those for previous caravanning or towing experience, and for secure storage of your caravan. Get your caravan value and equipment values correct for the level of cover you've selected to make sure you're neither underinsured or overpaying.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Lifesure's Head of Insurance, Nick Long, has some very sound advice about researching and understanding exactly what you will get for your money. "When buying touring caravan insurance, consider the overall value a product provides, based on the price offered. One policy may look the cheapest, but it could have limited cover and might not come to your aid when you perhaps think it should! So, review the terms and conditions of a policy to make sure it meets your needs; this will avoid any nasty surprises should you need to make a claim. The service a company provides can be gauged via customer review sites such as Feefo where like-minded people give insight to their experiences. Check these reviews to see what customers say about the service they have received. Also, do you recognise the insurance brand? Have they experience in selling touring caravan insurance? Does the broker or insurer have a long history or heritage? Are they an experienced insurance expert who can evidence providing support when you need it most?"

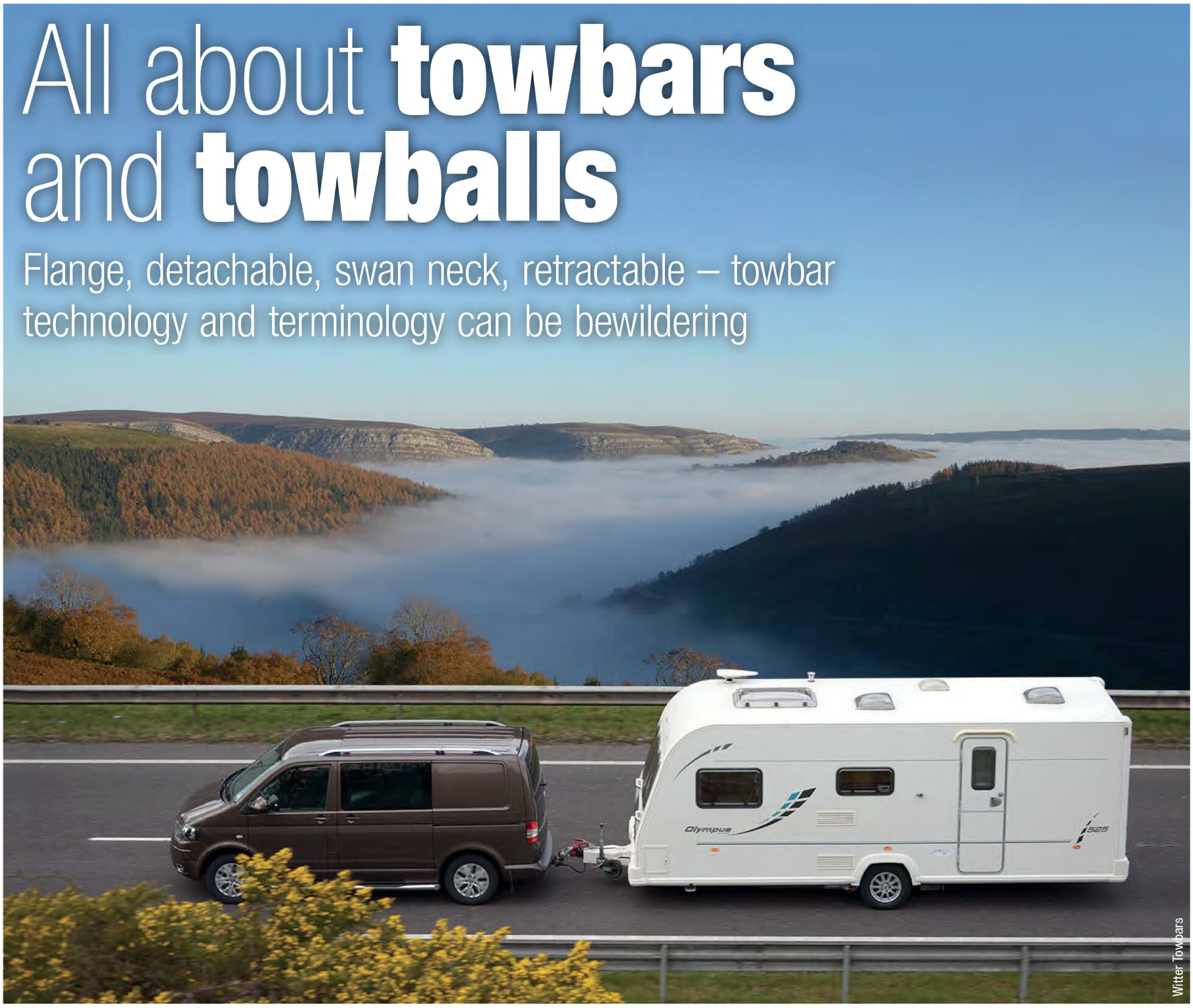
DON'T BE UNDERINSURED

A spokesperson for Shield Total Insurance, warns about the risks of being underinsured. "When insuring on a new-for-old basis, you need to establish how much a new replacement caravan is worth. For example, you may have a 2015 tourer, but you need to pay the premium for a 2025 tourer. This amount may be very much higher. If insuring as market value, it is a false economy to select a value higher than you caravan is worth. In the event of a total loss, you will only recoup what the assessors deem to be the market value, so you may be paying more premium than you need to in the interim.

A good option is agreed or guaranteed value. If you have bought the unit from a recognised dealer in the last five years irrespective of age of unit, the insurers can take the receipt purchase price as the agreed value. In the case of a total loss, you will likely get back the amount you paid for it, so will suffer no detriment and will have paid the relevant premium all along.

All about **towbars** and **towballs**

Flange, detachable, swan neck, retractable – towbar technology and terminology can be bewildering


Witter Towbars

A towbar is clearly an essential piece of kit for caravanning but before you have one fitted to your vehicle, it's good to fully understand the anatomy of a towbar.

There's more to it than you might think and there are a few things for you to consider before choosing the style you want.

ANATOMY OF A TOWBAR

A caravan's tow hitch attaches your car's towball to the caravan, creating a secure, articulated connection for safe towing. But there's more to the front end of a caravan exterior than just an A-frame and connection.

The towbar has several parts to it. First of all, there is the hidden structure which fits to your car's chassis, and then attached to this is the towball and its neck.

The tow hitch is the part of your caravan which you lower onto the towball and connects your car and caravan, allowing you to tow.

TYPES OF TOWBAR

There are four main towbar types to suit the different needs of many different caravanners:

1 FLANGE

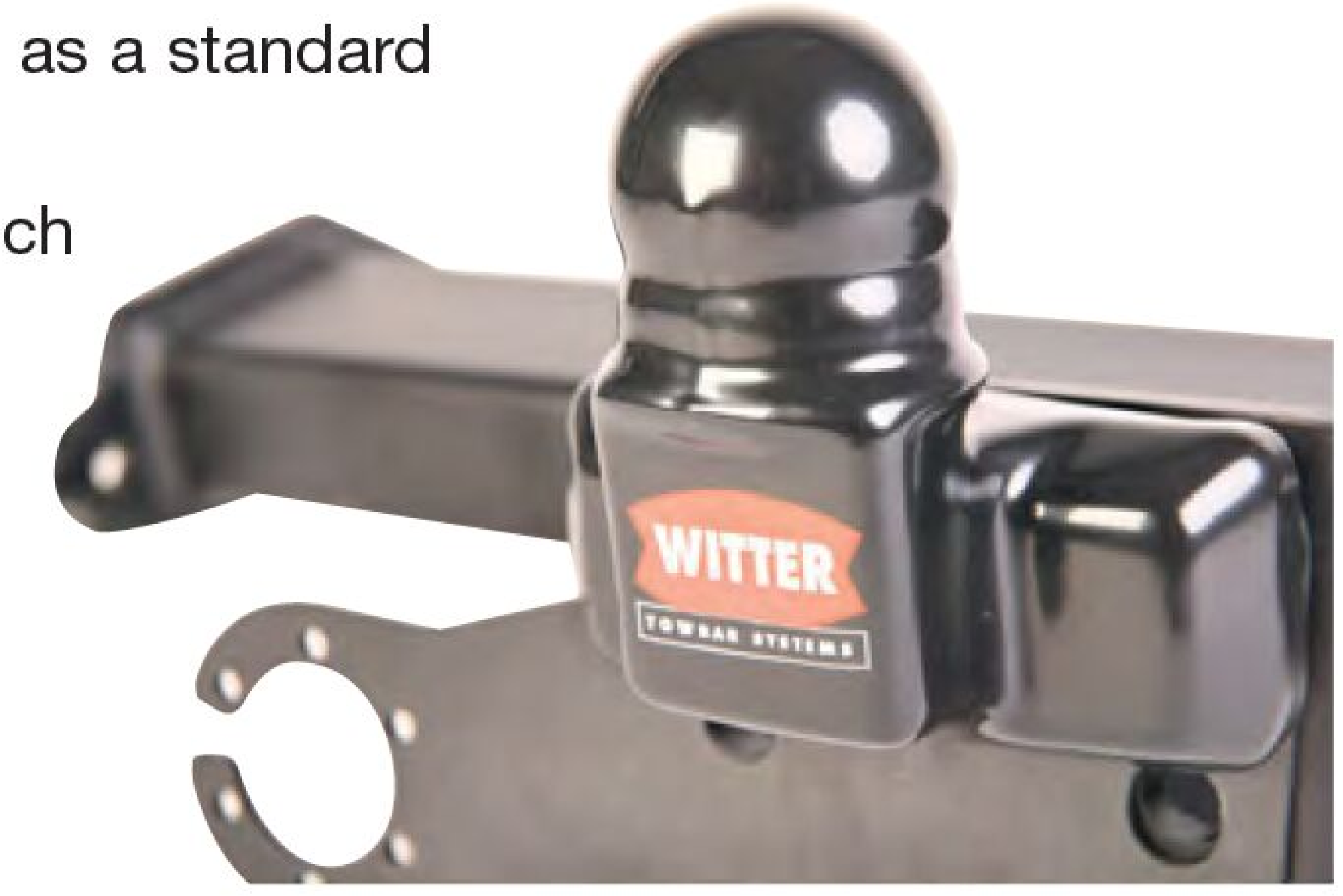
The flange towbar is the most common and most cost-effective type of towbar, and is sometimes referred to as a towing bracket. This towbar fits to a flange plate, and has two 24mm bolts holding it in place.

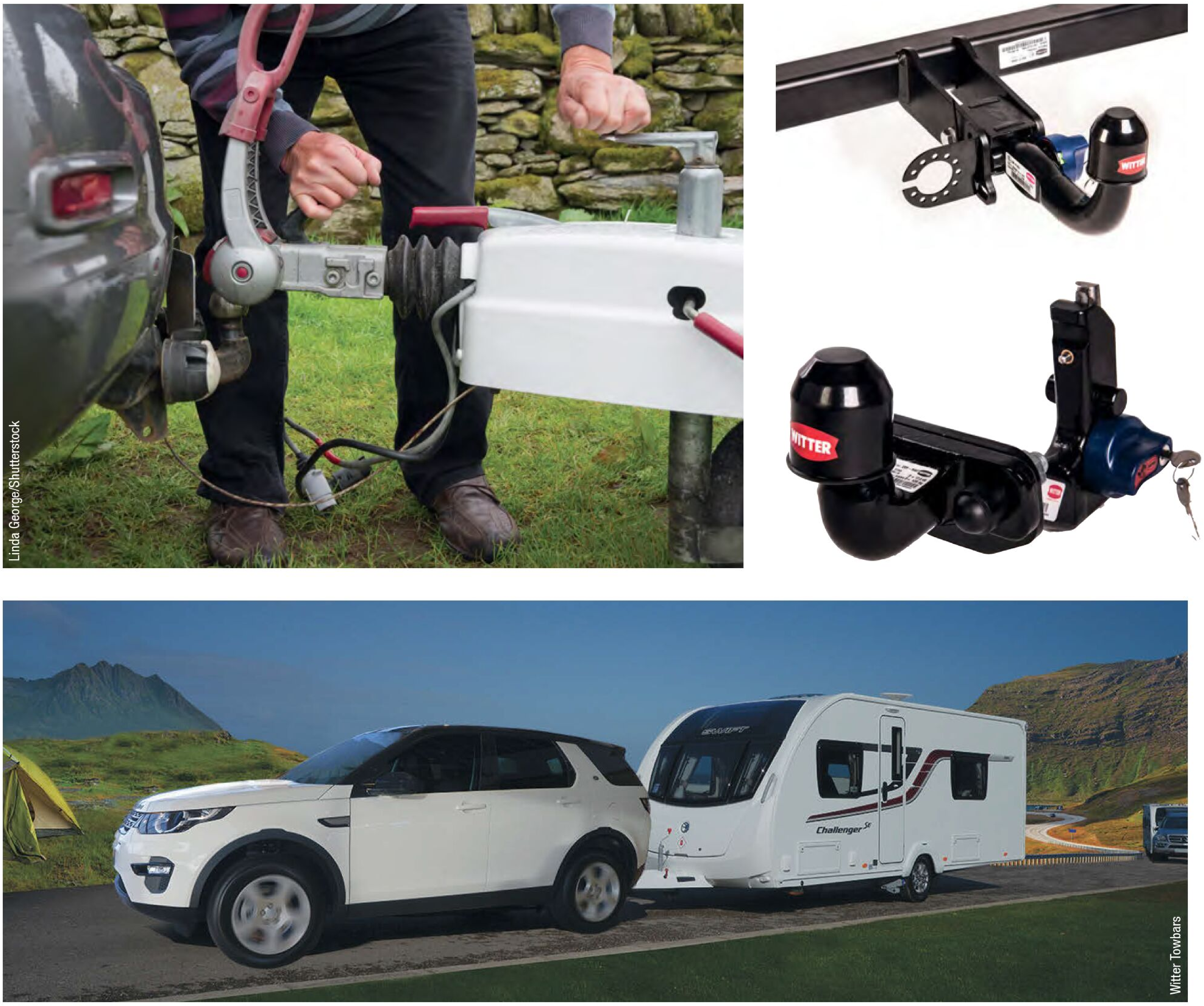
The advantage of this is that you can fit different accessories as well as a standard towball to the flange plate.

For example, you can attach cycle racks, stabilisers, a drop plate, bumper guards, etc. It also means you can use a standard Al-Ko AKS hitch-head stabiliser.

These are fitted on most caravans as standard. If you

BELOW
Fixed flange





Linda George/Shutterstock

Witter Towbars

want to fit a cycle carrier to your car, flange types are suitable towbars. The cycle carriers fix between the flange and the ball.

2 SWAN NECK TOWBARS

The swan neck name of this style comes from the shape of the unit as it curves up from the towbar to the ball. This type is less versatile than a flange, in that you can either fit a cycle carrier or tow, but not both. The swan neck design looks more attractive than the more industrial-looking flange type you commonly see.

3 DETACHABLE TOWBARS

The detachable towbar is removable when not in use. The obvious advantage is the appearance of your car is neater and more streamlined than if you were to go for a flange type.

When fitted, the detachable towbar looks rather like a swan neck type. You can remove and fit it in seconds. The mechanism is a twist-and-push fit, with a key-locking system.

You insert the coupling towball mechanism in the top or side, depending on the type. Often, the gear is completely invisible when not in use. Some vehicles come with clip-on panels to hide the towbar mount. Detachable towbars are more expensive than the flange and swan neck types.

4 RETRACTABLE TOWBARS

The retractable towbar hinges out from a hidden location under your car. You lock it into position when you need it.

Some retractable towbars operate at the press of a button. The ball swings into position ready to tow. This is usually the most expensive option.

WHICH TOWBAR IS FOR YOU?

Which of the four types of towbar you choose depends on two factors. One is price, the other is aesthetics. Flange towbars are the least attractive but generally the least expensive. Consider a

ABOVE CLOCKWISE
Hooking up the caravan ready for towing; Detachable swan; Detachable flange; A secure towing outfit

Witter Towbars

Witter Towbars

ABOVE
Towball-mounted bike rack

ABOVE RIGHT
Towball-mounted bike rack with bikes tilted

retractable or detachable towbar if appearance is important to you. It's simple to refine your choice of towball and towbar to suit your car and the type you need. Start online. Witter's website **witter-towbars.co.uk** offers instant info.

Identify your car from a series of drop-down menus. You'll see a choice of towbars available for that car, together with the fitted price. Towsure and Tow-Trust Towbars offers a similar information service. There are also many towbar fitting companies around Britain; take your pick!

TOP TIPS FOR TOWBAR CARE AND USE

Choosing the right towbar and having it fitted is just the first step – next, you need to look after it and make sure you're using it correctly to avoid wear and tear. Follow these top tips to keep your towbar in pristine condition!

CLEAN YOUR TOWBALL REGULARLY

Keep your towball free of dirt. It's recommended you give it a thorough clean with white spirit to remove all grit and dust. When your towball is new it will be nicely coated with black paint. It may seem strange, but you have to remove this paint, using emery paper, before you tow. Both of these points will prevent damage to the friction pads inside the hitch-head stabiliser.

POSITION YOUR TOWBAR CORRECTLY

Make sure that the towball does not obscure your car's number plate – or part of it. If it does, you will need to reposition the number plate.

If you fit a bike rack (possible on a flange type), make sure the rack and the bikes still leave the number plate visible. If not, you will need to fit an extra number plate onto the rear of the bikes and the rack. If you want to have a towbar fitted to a company car, you need to have permission from the company that owns the car. This might be the lease company.

HITCH YOUR CARAVAN CORRECTLY

Carry a small mat so that you don't get mud on your clothes when you crouch down to lock/unlock your detachable towbar. It's also useful when you are attaching the caravan's breakaway cable to the car's towbar.

Get a plastic alignment tool, available from caravan accessory shops. This costs less than £3 and it is invaluable for when the pin area in the 13-pin socket comes out of alignment. If this happens, the caravan's socket won't go into the car's socket. It's minor, but the small circular plastic alignment tool sorts it out in seconds.

When you arrive at your pitch, after reversing, pull forward a few centimetres. Doing this extends the tow hitch ram so that, when you unhitch, it won't extend itself into the bumper of your car!

Remember to lock your removable towball in place – and keep the key somewhere safe.

To get an extra number plate for the caravan (or bike rack), you will need to take your car's V5 log book to a registered supplier. The V5 shows who owns the vehicle when you have the number plate made.

CONTACTS

Brink brink.eu/en-gb
Tow-Trust tow-trust.co.uk
Towbar Express towbarexpress.co.uk
Towsure towsure.com
Witter witter-towbars.co.uk
Westfalia westfalia-automotive.com

SEASONED EXPLORERS

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SCAN ME

TRUSTED GEAR FOR EVERY ADVENTURE

outandaboutshop.co.uk POWERED BY hooluh

The ultimate guide to **motor movers**

Our guide to this invaluable technology

Discover the convenience of a motor mover – an innovative electronic device designed to transform your caravan manoeuvring. Easily fitted to your caravan, this device, equipped with two or four motor units based on your caravan type, empowers you to navigate your caravan remotely.

WHAT ARE MOTOR MOVERS?

Motor movers for caravans are mechanical devices that enable a caravan to be manoeuvred by means of power from the caravan's 12V leisure battery. Since the invention of motor movers, the concept has quite simply revolutionised caravanning. This is because, without a motor mover, caravans either have to be manoeuvred by a car or manually. There are obvious restrictions to both.

WHY USE A MOTOR MOVER?

Manoeuvring a caravan by means of the car, for example onto a pitch with tight-turn restricted access, or onto a storage plot, means that there has to be sufficient length available for the car and the caravan to turn.

Manoeuvring manually requires strength, especially on gravel surfaces, and can be impossible on even slight inclines. So, enter the motor mover, as an alternative to both. Motor movers quite simply do away with the need to push or pull a caravan. They manoeuvre with great accuracy. And they are easy to operate.

Motor movers have a role to play in hitching up your caravan to your car. Unless you have a reversing camera fitted to your car (in which case you will use it to position the car's towball under the caravan's hitch), you will find that using a motor mover makes an enormous difference to the task of hitching up.

You can move the caravan towards the car with 100% accuracy, positioning it so that the hitch cup is over the car's towball.

HOW DOES A MOTOR MOVER WORK?

Motor movers are fixed to the caravan's chassis and have rollers that clamp against the tyres. When you activate the motor mover (by means of a remote control), the motor mover roller applies pressure (torque) to the tyre, thus moving the caravan. You can, from the remote control handset, control the speed and the direction of movement. Motor movers take their power from the caravan battery.

Some have a manual engagement system for the rollers (by means of a lever); most have powered engagements; you press a button on the handset and the rollers move towards the tyres, engaging the mover.

HOW TO FIT A MOTOR MOVER

While it is possible to DIY-fit a caravan mover, in practice most caravan purchasers have them fitted by their caravan retailer, and that is what we would advise.

There are several movers on the market. The one that you choose has to be suitable for your caravan. For example, it must not obstruct the spare wheel carrier that is fitted to many caravans just behind the nearside wheel (or wheels, on a twin-axle caravan). And it must not obstruct the caravan's jacking points. Above all, it must be designed for the number of axles that your caravan has; movers are designed for either a single-axle or twin-axle caravan.

MOTOR MOVER PROBLEMS

Bear in mind that the weight that a mover adds to your caravan has to be considered as part of the caravan's payload.

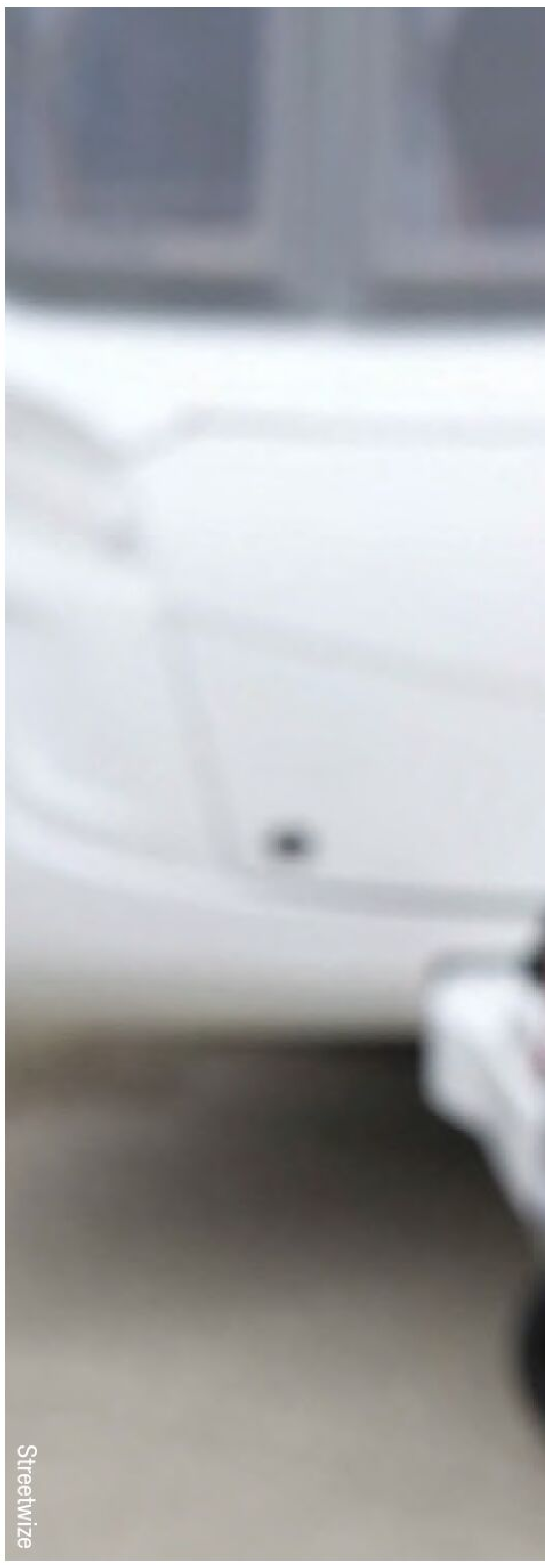
Most motor mover systems weigh around 30kg. Also bear in mind that, because motor movers sit below the chassis line, they reduce ground clearance; something that has to be kept in mind when manoeuvring around kerbs.

Also take extra care to drive very slowly over caravan park speed bumps.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Motor movers are very powerful, so watch out for any obstruction, for example, a rock, that could cause damage. Another thing to consider is your caravan's battery;

easydriver
pro 2.0
Reich


Streetwize

ABOVE
Leisurewize EM203 motor mover remote

BELOW
Reich Easydriver Pro 2.0 motor mover

Reich

Streetwize

standard advice is to have a leisure battery of at least 85Ah.

WHICH ONE TO CHOOSE?

Taking the two extremes, if your caravan is small and light in weight, you can go for a smaller, less powerful mover than one that is made for larger, much heavier, twin-axle caravans.

● POWRTOUCH MOTOR MOVERS

For example, the major motor mover manufacturer, Powrtouch, makes a motor mover called Freedom, which the company describes as a low-cost option with a manual engagement system. It is suitable for caravans with an MTPLM of up to 1,500kg.

In the Powrtouch range, there are three options for larger caravans. The Evolution (single axle) is available with either manual or automatic (powered) engagement. It is designed for caravans with an MTPLM of up to 2,000kg and will move caravans of up to this weight on a 25% gradient.

● TWIN-AXLE

For twin-axle caravans there are two motor movers in the Powrtouch range. The Evolution twin axle, two-motor mover and the Evolution twin-axle, four-motor model.

This one has four rollers, so offers enhanced capability over the model that has two motors. It is designed to manoeuvre caravans of up to 2,800kg MTPLM, and has enhanced turning capability compared with the two-motor model.

● OTHER MOTOR MOVERS

There are several other motor mover manufacturers and brands on the market.

These include Quattro. There are three in the range. The Quattro Titanium is a single-roller mover and is designed to move a caravan of up to 2,300kg MTPLM on a 15% incline. The Quattro Rhodium has two rollers on each mover, so offers more torque. The Quattro Diamond also has two rollers on each mover and has a manual engagement system.

Both the Rhodium and the Diamond are designed to move a caravan with an MTPLM of up to 2,500kg on a 15% incline. The Diamond has an automatic engagement system.

Leisurewize offers a range of four motor movers called Emove. The Emove 203 and 303 are described as budget caravan movers. They are designed to move a 1,500kg (MTPLM)

TOP
Reich Easydriver Infinity Tabbert Puccini 750 motor mover

ABOVE
Leisurewize EM303A motor mover

caravan on a gradient of up to 18%.

The 303A has automatic engagement. It is designed to propel a caravan with an MTPLM of 1,600kg on an incline of up to 18%. The 305 has a greater weight capacity; up to 1,750kg on an 18% gradient.

Al-Ko introduced the Mammut manoeuvring system some years ago. Designed for gradients of up to 28% and to cope with obstacles up to four centimetres high, this is a robust unit which is integrated into the chassis. Al-Ko says it is, “The most precise manoeuvring system on the market with maximum ground clearance.”

Adam Betteridge, the UK Aftermarket Sales Manager for Al-Ko, explained to Out and About Live, “We have a UK network of dealers who have access to training and accreditations from us and can install when required. We are creating a new aftermarket dealer network in the UK.”

THE LATEST MOVER DEVELOPMENTS

Soft-start technology: Given that motor movers are located next to the wheel with all the associated grime and dirt, the very best materials must be used to ensure longevity.

For example, Powrtouch uses an aircraft-grade aluminium alloy, diamond-cut precision-machined castings, Alocrom treatment post-machining, durable powder coating, heat-treated high-strength steel gears, hi-torque four-pole motor and a super-grip aluminium roller. All combined with British design and manufacture.

Light and durable alloys and clever gearbox designs are making the latest movers much lighter than their predecessors.

Advanced mover technology is also making new units much lighter.

The latest movers, like some of those from Truma, feature three-phase brushless motors which give feedback to the control circuitry, so that it always knows what the motors are doing. The result is a super-sensitive and efficient mover that can even trap an egg without breaking it and one that will manoeuvre straight, even if one or more wheels is going over obstacles.

Reich has some of the strongest movers on the market. You can control some via a smartphone app, just in case you can’t find the remote control. Brushless DC motors used in some movers create far more torque than traditional motors with carbon brushes. Truma’s XT is one unit that uses this technology.

You can upgrade some e-go units retrospectively, eg, transform a two-unit system into an all-wheel drive four-unit system, future-proofing it should you get a bigger caravan.

One effective way to increase the power output of a given DC motor is to fit it with four poles instead of the standard two. Essentially, this modification involves adding an extra pair of stationary windings and brushes.

While this type of motor consumes more current, it significantly enhances power production. Companies like Powrtouch and others have successfully incorporated this advanced design into their latest units, resulting in improved performance and efficiency for users

With over 20 years’ experience in creating caravan movers, Powrtouch has a great pedigree. Its latest updated versions of the Evolution and Freedom motor movers are designed to make manoeuvring caravans simple and safe, including a professional installation as standard and a five-year warranty.

Witter

ABOVE
Quattro motor mover Diamond 600

BELOW
Truma motor mover

Lee Davey

FAQ

● How much is a motor mover for a caravan?
It obviously depends on the make, type and capability for which each mover is designed. A major factor on price is whether you are buying a mover for a single-axle caravan or a twin-axle model. Fitted prices range from around £800 up to more than £2,500 for the highest-spec ones.

● How much warranty do you get with a motor mover?
Generally, motor movers come with a five-year warranty; check with the manufacturer.

● When was the first motor mover introduced?
In 1996 Carver (the company later became part of Truma) unveiled the first motor mover that clamped to a caravan chassis. Reich entered the market in 2001.

In the same year, Powrwheel launched its first mover, called Powrtouch.

● What are quad movers?
Quad movers were developed for twin-axle caravans. There is a mover on each of the four wheels. Increased traction is an obvious advantage. Ease and accuracy of manoeuvring is another advantage.

● How do I look after the mover?
Maintenance is quite simple on most movers on the market – keep the mover clean and every six months grease the mover (follow appropriate instructions). Successful operation is dependent on a good battery.

Keep the caravan leisure battery topped up. The mover can operate at voltages below 12V, but it does have an automatic cut-out when the voltage drops to 11V.

Keep the battery above 12V.

When not in use for long periods, consider taking the caravan battery out of the caravan and top up occasionally with a bench charger. Also, remember to take the battery out of the remote control.

● Can I fit my motor mover or swap my existing one onto my new caravan?
Yes, you can do both. It's relatively easy for anyone who's handy with a spanner.

Witter

● Anything else I need to know about motor movers?
Yes, don't use the mover while you're plugged into the mains recharging your leisure battery, as you're likely to blow part of the circuitry.

Motor movers are incredibly powerful, so ensure that there's nothing in the way of the caravan, and don't forget to take the handbrake off before you activate it.

Always put the handbrake on before disengaging the rollers, unless you have chocked the wheels.

Manoeuvring a caravan using a remote control is so simple that it's easy to overlook small ground features that could cause issues.

For example, a jockey wheel that's bogged down in soft sand or shingle, or an impact with a kerbstone can cause significant stress and potential damage to a caravan chassis or, at best, a bent jockey wheel.

Consider using a heavy-duty jockey wheel with your motor mover, preferably with a pneumatic tyre.

Have you ever tried...

- Hitching up: reversing your car to line up the towball with your caravan?
- Pitching your caravan on a tight and awkward pitch?
- Levelling your caravan onto levelling ramps?
- Moving your caravan into a difficult parking spot?
- Lining up the wheels of your caravan with your security hitch lock?

Manoeuvring the caravan is not always possible with the car. Certain surfaces, inclines and tight spots make your caravan difficult to manhandle.

With a motor mover, all of this is made so much easier. Powrtouch has designed a millimetre-by-millimetre mover range capable of climbing a 25% slope with 2,000kg.

● Which mover should I choose?
Single, twin or AWD. Powrtouch has designed a range to suit every caravan; single or twin-axle with an automatic or manual feature. Turning is the main point to consider.

An AWD has superior turning ability for tight spots. You might want to consider future-proofing in case you want to upgrade your caravan later down the line.

Automatic or manual. Engagement to the tyres can be manual using a wrench, or automatic using a remote handset.

A mover with manual engagement can engage both sides of the caravan from one side.

It is easy to use for most caravan owners, with just a single movement. An automatic mover has actuator motors to move the rollers on and off the wheels. It is simple to use – pressing two buttons, no effort required if the manual mover is impractical due to health issues.

Weight. Powrtouch movers weigh from 35kg, they add just 3-4kg to the noseweight.

Energy source. The mover takes its power from a leisure battery, which you should already have fitted to your caravan.

Caravan **toilets:** the ultimate guide

Addressing the questions so many hesitate to ask

RIGHT
A caravan toilet alongside a sink and storage compartments

BELOW
Blue for the waste tank, pink for the top tank

BOTTOM
A toilet cassette in its housing

When nature calls on the road, you need a hygienic and convenient solution. Whether you're a seasoned caravanner or a newbie setting off on your first trip, understanding your toilet can significantly enhance your travel experience.

The humble caravan toilet is an essential part of almost every modern tourer, so let's discuss the different toilet types, maintenance tips, and best practices for use.

WHAT IS A CARAVAN TOILET?

A caravan toilet is typically a compact, self-contained unit located within the washroom.

The design has evolved since the first toilet was fitted inside a touring caravan, but the principle remains the same. Whether you have a cassette-style toilet or a portable loo, a holding tank securely contains the waste, and the correct dose of chemicals ensures that everything stays fresh.

TYPES OF CARAVAN TOILETS

● CASSETTE TOILET

Unlike traditional Porta Pottis, a cassette toilet is fixed within your vehicle. It features a permanent toilet seat connected to a removable waste tank.

This design offers the convenience of a built-in toilet while maintaining the ease of emptying a portable unit.

These toilets are known for their practical functionality. The waste tank can be detached and wheeled to designated disposal points, making waste management straightforward and hassle-free.

Brands like Thetford, famous for its Thetford C250 and Thetford C200 cassette toilet models, offer user-friendly features like electric flushing systems and water storage tanks to make your experience seamless.

40shot
The Original Cassette Toilet
Waste and rinse in one
Hygienic toilet
Lasting fragrance
Effortless flush
Pink Flush
Flusher & bowl cleaner in one

Lee Davey

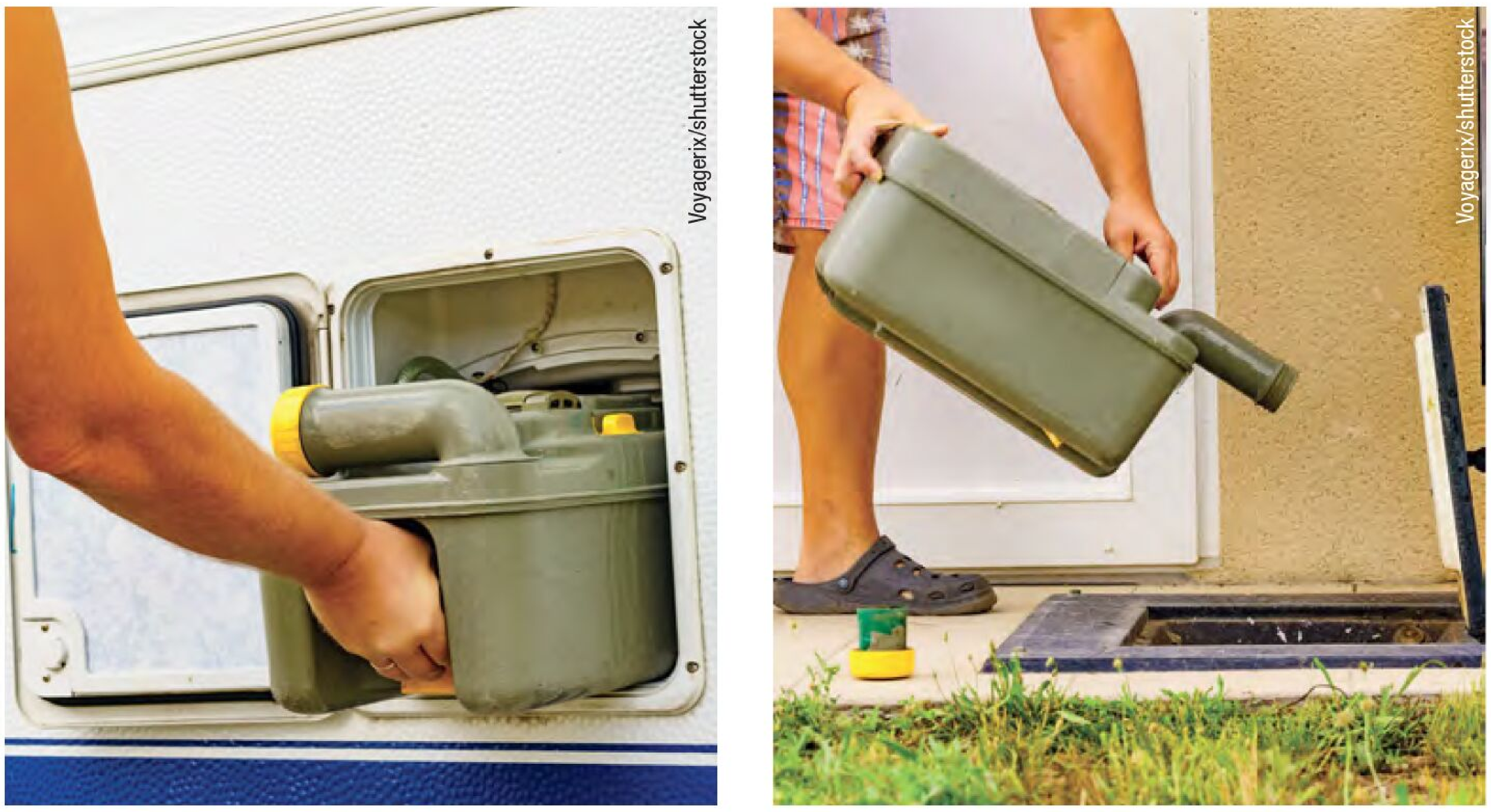
● PORTABLE TOILET

Much like any vacuum cleaner being called a Hoover, many portable caravan toilets are called a Porta Potti.

The Thetford Porta Potti has existed for many years, and although more modern caravans tend to be fitted with cassette toilets, the portable unit remains popular. As the name suggests, a portable toilet can be moved to a suitable location rather than permanently fitted.

Our 1967 Bailey Maestro has such a unit, and

Lee Davey



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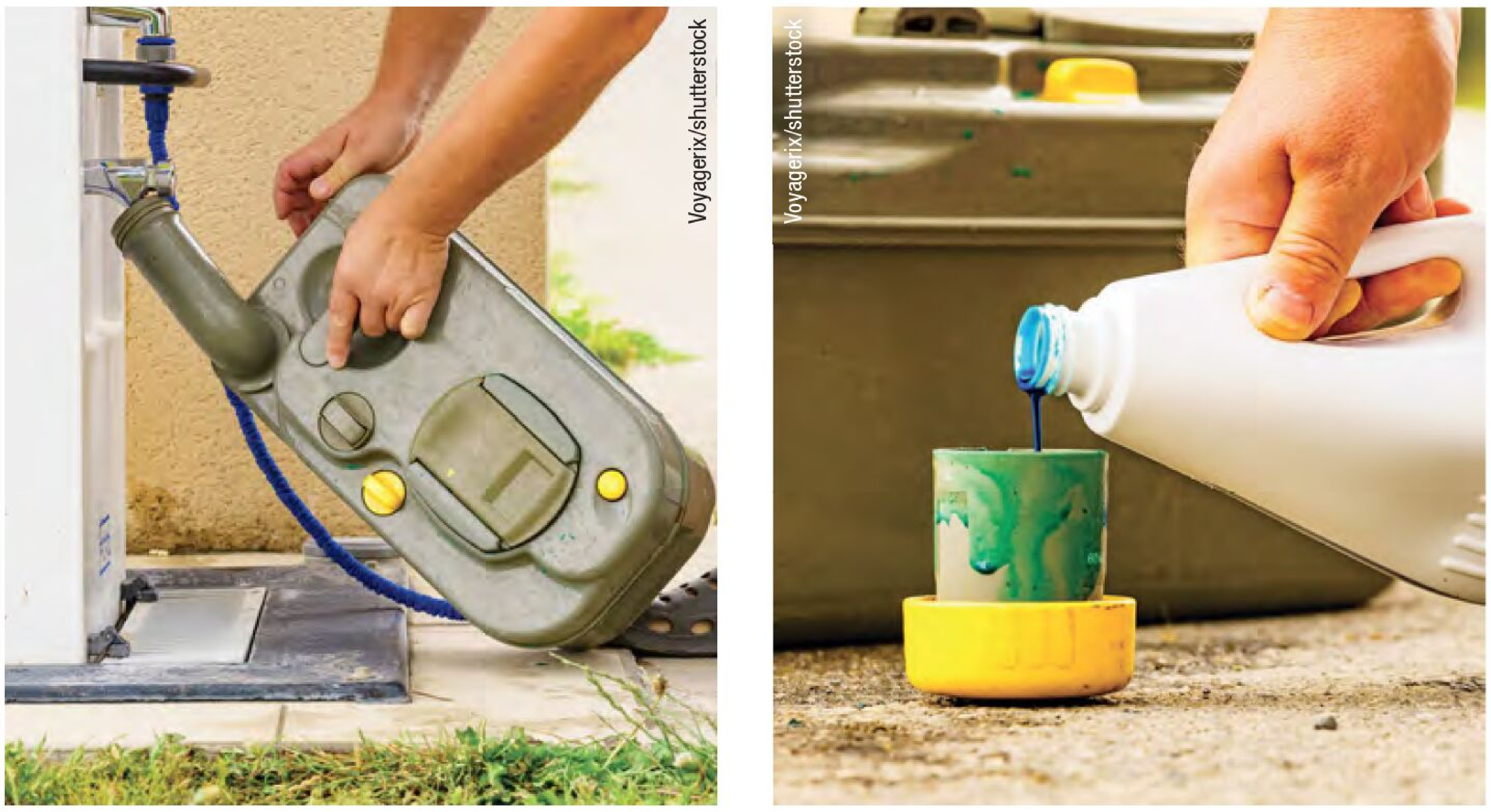

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rather than removing the cassette from the side of a caravan, the top of the Porta Potti (the seat, flush, etc) separates from the lower holding tank.

It can then be emptied similarly to a cassette toilet unit. This type of caravan loo usually has a manual flush. When touring in older caravans, toilet tents may be handy additions.

CLEANING AND EMPTYING YOUR CARAVAN TOILET

Keeping your cassette toilet clean and odour-free is essential. Regular maintenance extends the life of your toilet and ensures that it remains hygienic and functional.

READYING A CARAVAN TOILET

Before use, slide back the top-mounted cover, open the blade by turning the orange (or yellow) dial, and add the correct water and chemical mix. On occasion, campsites ask for a specific type of chemical to be used. Be sure to use an environmentally conscious chemical, as the sewer system and/or septic tank will rely on the correct type being used. Thetford's Aqua Kem Green is safe for septic tanks.

To avoid towing a caravan with a full flush tank, it is best practice to fill it after arriving on the campsite. Using the caravan key, undo the small exterior above the cassette unit.

Empty the correct amount of flush chemical into the tank and top up with water. Using the correct amount of flush chemical is important, as black particles can appear in the tank if too much is used.

EMPTYING A CARAVAN TOILET

I tend to use disposable gloves, but they are optional. You will also need a toilet cassette additive, such as Thetford's Aqua Kem Blue.

- Remove the cassette by opening the locker door, pulling the orange handle upwards, and removing the cassette. Some cassettes have wheels and an extendable handle, which makes transportation easier

TOP LEFT TO RIGHT
Slide the cassette out of its housing; Empty it into the campsite's chemical disposal point

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT
Rinse it out at the chemical disposal point; You can use the loo's cap to measure the blue chemical

Voyagerix/shutterstock

THETFORD
TOILET fresh-up SET
AQUA RINSE CONCENTRATED
AQUA SOFT THE ORIGINAL
AQUA KEM BLUE CONCENTRATED LAVENDER
AQUA KEM BLUE CONCENTRATED
Lee Davey

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT Toilet cassettes on recently made caravans now come equipped with wheels; Thetford offers a wide range of toilet products

- At the dedicated emptying point, turn the spout outwards and unscrew the cap. Place the cap somewhere safe
- With the orange (or yellow) button depressed, empty the tank via the spout. Keep the button pressed in to prevent glugging
- Using the chemical emptying point hose, partially fill the cassette via the spout, shake gently (to prevent the level indicator from detaching), and empty. Repeat until clean
- Fill the cassette with the specified mix of water and additive. Refit the cap
- Reinstall the cassette and close the locker door

CARAVAN TOILET CHEMICALS

● FLUSH TANK

Thetford's Aqua Rinse is a pink concentrate. If too much is used, black particles can form inside the flush tank. Ensure that the correct amount of tank fluid is used.

● TOILET CASSETTE

This chemical has a multipurpose role, as it needs to keep the cassette smelling fresh while breaking down the contents.

Many brands exist, with Thetford's Aqua Kem Blue being a popular choice of toilet fluid. It can also be purchased in pod form.

FAQ

● How does a caravan toilet work?

A caravan toilet stores waste in a dedicated holding tank, or cassette, underneath the main unit. This tank contains a specialist liquid that neutralises smells. A separate tank holds flush liquid that washes everything into the holding tank.

● Can you poop in a caravan toilet?

Yes. Caravan toilets and the chemicals used are designed with this in mind.

● How to flush a caravan toilet

A separate tank holds the flush liquid and a small pump. The pump propels the liquid around the bowl, flushing the loo.

TIPS ON MAINTAINING YOUR CARAVAN TOILET

● GENERAL CLEANING

To maximise the lifespan of your cassette toilet, avoid using harsh chemicals that can damage the components.

Instead, opt for products specifically designed for cassette toilets. Thetford's Toilet Bowl Cleaner does exactly what it says on the bottle.

● MAINTENANCE CLEANING

The cassette unit can be periodically given a deep clean. Thetford Duo Tank Cleaner, or a similar product, helps keep things squeaky clean.

● SEAL LUBRICATION

Keeping the seals lubricated is important, especially if the caravan is going into storage or will likely be unused for some time.

Dedicated lubricants are available, or olive oil can be used as a substitute. If using olive oil, run a thin bead around the central circular seal with a gloved finger.

WANT TO FRESHEN THINGS UP?

Fresh-up kits often include essential accessories like a replacement seat and waste tank, making maintenance straightforward.

Such kits are popular with purchasers of secondhand caravans.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Cassette or portable toilets offer caravan owners a balanced blend of convenience, practicality, and comfort, making travel more enjoyable and hassle-free. These toilets check many boxes, from their ease of use and maintenance to their compact, built-in design.

Regular maintenance and proper chemical use ensure that your caravan toilet remains in optimal working condition, allowing you to focus on enjoying your travels without any worries or interruptions.

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Number one in sanitary solutions for your caravan

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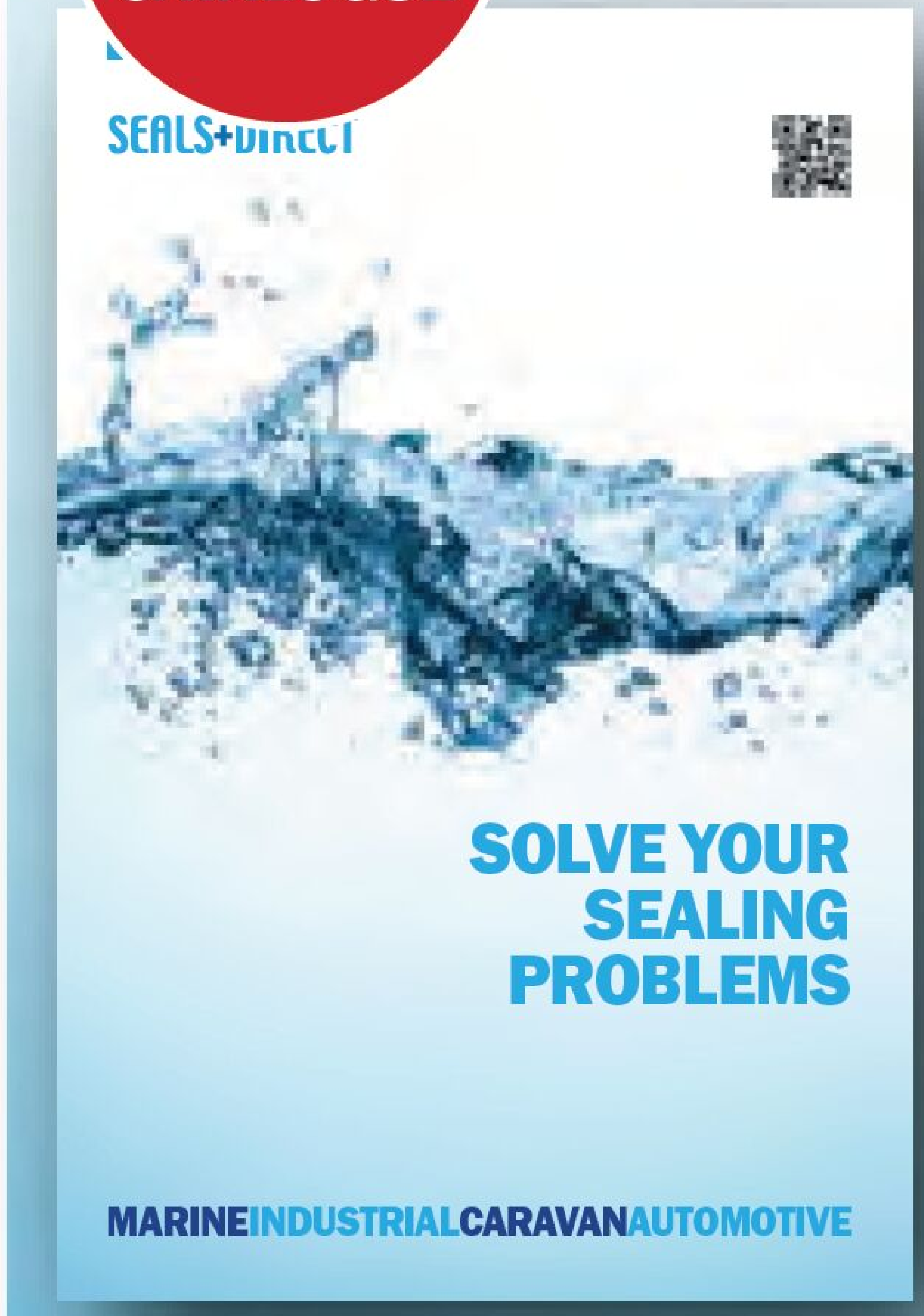
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Essential **accessories**

Don't forget to budget for the essential kit you need to enjoy caravanning safely and within the law. Here's our round-up…

TOWING MIRRORS

Most car and caravan outfits will require additional mirrors for towing. In the majority of cases this is a legal requirement – with your caravan hitched, you should be able to see an area 4m wide from each side of your caravan up to a distance of 20m. If you have space, you might like to check this physically for yourself. You should be able to see all the way along the sides of your caravan – right to the furthest corner. Alternatively, your local caravan dealer can advise.

Top tip: Buy the best towing mirrors you can afford, is our advice. Just make sure they fit your car.

GREY HOSEPIPE

Easily obtainable from any caravan accessories shop, where it's typically sold by the metre. A semi-rigid hosepipe is exactly what you need for securely connecting any waste water outlets to the waste water container.

Top tip: Ideally, keep your pipe runs as short as possible. You'll probably also want a Y-shaped connector to allow two outlets to run into the one piece of pipe.

ADDITONAL NUMBER PLATE

Your caravan will need a proper registration plate that matches the car that's towing it. Most caravan dealers will make a number plate for you (remember, the rear plate is yellow). Alternatively, go to any specialist car accessories retailer. You will need your towcar's V5 registration document to prove that you own the vehicle.

Top tip: You may need a way of fixing the plate. Look for items such as holders or adhesive pads, but check what your 'van needs first.

WATER CONTAINERS

If your caravan doesn't already include them, you'll need fresh and waste water containers. AquaRoll is the big name in fresh water carriers – a pretty unique design that allows you to roll the container back to your 'van when it's filled with water. Other designs are available. Likewise, your waste water container should have wheels or similar. Typically, fresh and waste water containers look different, the latter designed to slot under your caravan.

Top tip: Buy containers of capacities you'll be happy to handle – transporting across site and emptying when full – as well as big enough to avoid too many such trips.

LEVELLING DEVICE(S)

The best levelling device money can buy? A tin of baked beans. Surprisingly, placing the tin on the floor on its side at different angles can help you determine if your caravan is level. If it rolls, you're not quite there yet.

Consider permanently attaching a spirit level to your caravan or using a phone app.

Place the level somewhere convenient, such as on the drawbar or inside the gas locker, for an instant reference.

Levelling ramps or blocks are essential. Usually made of reinforced plastic, these allow you to drive your caravan onto them as part of the levelling process. Don't confuse ramps with chocks, which are used to keep your caravan securely in position once it's level.

Lock n Level

Levellers, such as LocknLevel or the Aluminium Leveller from Milenco, are also available.

You'll quickly see the benefits of pitching your caravan on level ground: better performance of key equipment like the fridge and cooker, easier drainage of waste liquids (including the shower), and a better night's sleep.

Top tip: Do not level your 'van using corner steadies. These are for resting only. Invest in foot pads and blocks.

TOILET ADDITIVES

You will need suitable additives for your caravan's flushing toilet.

Look for two specific types of additives: one to break down waste in the cassette tank (typically coloured blue or green), and another for the flush water to reduce odours and control germs (usually coloured pink).

For caravan toilet cleaners, choose specialist products that won't damage materials like seals and sealants, commonly used in caravan washrooms.

Organic versions will also be available for purchase.

THETFORD
AQUA KEM BLUE CONCENTRATED
AQUA RINSE CONCENTRATED
DUO TANK CLEANER CONCENTRATED

Refer to your caravan's owner's manual for additional guidance.

Top tip: Don't forget toilet tissue, too. The stuff designed for use in caravan toilets dissolves quicker than normal domestic paper and is therefore less likely to bung up your loo!

GAS CYLINDERS

CALOR
6kg Prop
CALOR Gas
12kg Butane

Most modern caravans are designed to use propane gas, which operates at lower temperatures than butane.

Calor is the best-known propane gas for caravans (although it's not available in Europe) – instantly recognisable thanks to its bright red cylinders. For butane, a popular brand is Campingaz, which uses blue cylinders. Some caravans have piping and, critically, regulators and pipework that mean you can operate either gas type.

If you don't already have a suitable cylinder, the first step is to buy one. Thereafter, it's an exchange system whereby you swap in your empty cylinder for a full one. You might also want to buy a back-up cylinder, too. It doesn't necessarily have to be the same size – a smaller variant will suffice. It's not untypical for your gas to run out at the most inopportune moment!

Top tip: Don't forget to buy a suitable spanner. And keep it somewhere safe and easily accessible.

MAINS LEAD

New or pre-owned, your caravan should come with a suitable mains lead. Typically, it will be 25m long. It will have distinct rounded three-point plugs to connect your caravan to a mains hook-up point on site. If you're more than 25m from a mains hook-up point, you may need to consider an extension. Unrolling your mains lead completely will prevent any possibility of it overheating.

Top tip: Connect your lead to the caravan inlet first before plugging into the live socket. Reverse the process when you're unplugging.

STEP

You'll get a free-standing, plastic, step with your new caravan… you might get one if you buy a secondhand 'van. They can also be purchased separately, including models in metal. And you may find a double step is better for you. You might not believe it, but caravan steps are covered by a British Standard – BS EN 1645, clause 5.5.

Top tip: Whichever step you go for, do check the maximum weight it can withstand. This does vary.

LEISURE BATTERY

ADVENTURER AGM

You're in luck if your caravan comes with a leisure battery. If not, you'll need to invest in one. Your caravan's interior lighting and other systems require a 12V supply. Although a leisure battery may resemble a vehicle battery, it is designed to provide a constant current over an extended period.

Lead acid, AGM, gel and, more recently, lithium are different styles of leisure battery. Banner, Bosch, Dynamic, Exide, Johnson, Leoch, Lucas, Ecobat, NDS, Numax, Platinum, Varta, Xplorer and Yuasa are brands to look out for.

The UK's caravan trade organisation, the NCC (National Caravan Council) has a Verified Leisure Battery Scheme, which splits leisure batteries into three different categories, depending on power and performance:

Category A Higher storage capacity for people who frequently use their caravan away from a mains electric hook-up.

Category B For those who frequently use sites with hook-up facilities, but require a greater battery capacity to operate devices such as motor movers.

Category C For users that require a lower-capacity battery to cover basic operation of their habitation equipment for short periods away from an electrical hook-up.

Find out more at 🖥 **thencc.org.uk/consumer-advice/verified-battery-list**

Top tip: Don't let your leisure battery get too cold, especially if it's unused through the winter months. There's no better way of shortening its lifespan.

out&about LIVE

www.outandaboutlive.co.uk

Safe and **secure**

Ensuring your caravan's safety during downtime is crucial. Here are a few expert tips for secure storage and peace of mind

Alan Morris iStockphoto

Keeping your caravan on your home premises is regarded as the most convenient solution to storage. It's close to your house for cleaning, packing and unpacking – and it's right there where you need it when you're setting off on holiday. But storing a caravan in your garden is far from ideal for many caravan owners. Your garden may not be large enough; access roads may be too narrow – and there's another consideration. That's house security. If your caravan can be seen from the road, its absence when you are away signifies that the house may not be occupied. Solution: a storage arrangement that's ideal for security in terms of both your house and your caravan.

Caravan storage sites come in all shapes and sizes. The best – and most secure – have a security rating. Our advice will lead you to selecting the best storage solution for you…

All things considered, paying the relatively modest fee it costs to store a caravan safely is a sensible option.

Using a storage facility can reduce the risks of your caravan being stolen. A company that specialises in caravan insurance: Shield Total Insurance commented, "Our claims prove that caravans are much more vulnerable to theft when they're kept at home. We suspect that many are stolen by organised gangs, so it's always best to keep your caravan out of sight if you can."

With this in mind, if you haven't considered the benefit of using a storage facility, it might be wise to do so. Here are some of the key factors you will want to think about.

»

STORE-AND-STAY

Some sites offer a facility that enables you to store your caravan in a compound on the site, and then have it towed to a pitch when you stay at that site. It's an excellent arrangement if you have a favourite site.

Driving to the site is more economical than towing. Your caravan is ready for you on a pitch when you arrive. And, of course, when you want to take your caravan elsewhere, you can do so, just like using any other storage facility.

Storage site checklist ✓

Guardian Secure Storage

CaSSOA

Border Storage

✓ LOCATION

Proximity to your home is not the only aspect of the storage site's location you should consider. The best sites are situated discreetly 'out of the way', avoiding main roads and passing traffic. If your caravan isn't visible, the chances are that potential thieves won't even know it's there.

✓ SECURE FENCING

Shabby or damaged fencing around a storage site should be a concern. Tall (2.4m high), metal palisade fencing is the preferred option.

✓ CHECK FOR TREES SURROUNDING THE FENCE

Tall trees near the perimeter fence offer a potential opportunity for thieves, who can use them to climb over fencing. The lack of potential access points can help to reduce the risk of theft.

✓ CHECK SPACING BETWEEN FENCES AND CARAVANS

Caravan storage plots backed right up to the fence should be avoided if possible. This practice will obscure CCTV, offering thieves an opportunity to target your caravan out of sight. A good storage site will have a perimeter track to keep extra distance between the fence and its pitches.

✓ FIRE-PREVENTION EQUIPMENT

Not all risks come from thieves and vandals, and accidents can happen. If a fire occurs, there should be easily accessible equipment not only to raise the alarm, but to combat the fire as well. Hand-cranked alarm bells and multiple fire extinguishers should be present throughout a storage site.

✓ ELECTRONIC TAG SYSTEM

Rather than relying on a handwritten system of who is booked in/out, an electronic tag system keeps records instantly updated. This enables the site owners to keep track of activity; when any person entered or left a site and also how many caravans are currently on the site at any one time.

✓ CCTV

Enhanced CCTV serves two purposes – one proactive and one reactive.

FINDING A SECURE STORAGE SITE

How do you find a secure storage site and how do you know if it's truly secure? The first step is to visit CaSSOA (🖥 **cassoa.co.uk**). This is the Caravan Storage Site Owners' Association and its aim is 'to reduce caravan theft by promoting the highest levels of security on caravan storage sites'.

The organisation oversees several hundred secure storage sites across the UK. All CaSSOA sites have to meet certain minimum levels of security and are classified according to the level of protection they provide.

Bronze accreditation is the entry-level award and calls for perimeter protection and lockable gates. To gain Silver accreditation, a site must include additional features such as CCTV and monitored entry and exit of the site. Gold accredited sites have features including electronic access systems, number plate recognition and alarm systems. Platinum accreditation is the highest award and requires the adoption of a comprehensive range of security measures. Over 50% of CaSSOA sites have Gold accreditation. Each site is resurveyed every five years to ensure that standards are maintained.

Before you commit to using a storage site facility, you should visit the site, take a good look around and consider the points here.

CaSSOA

Check for secure fencing

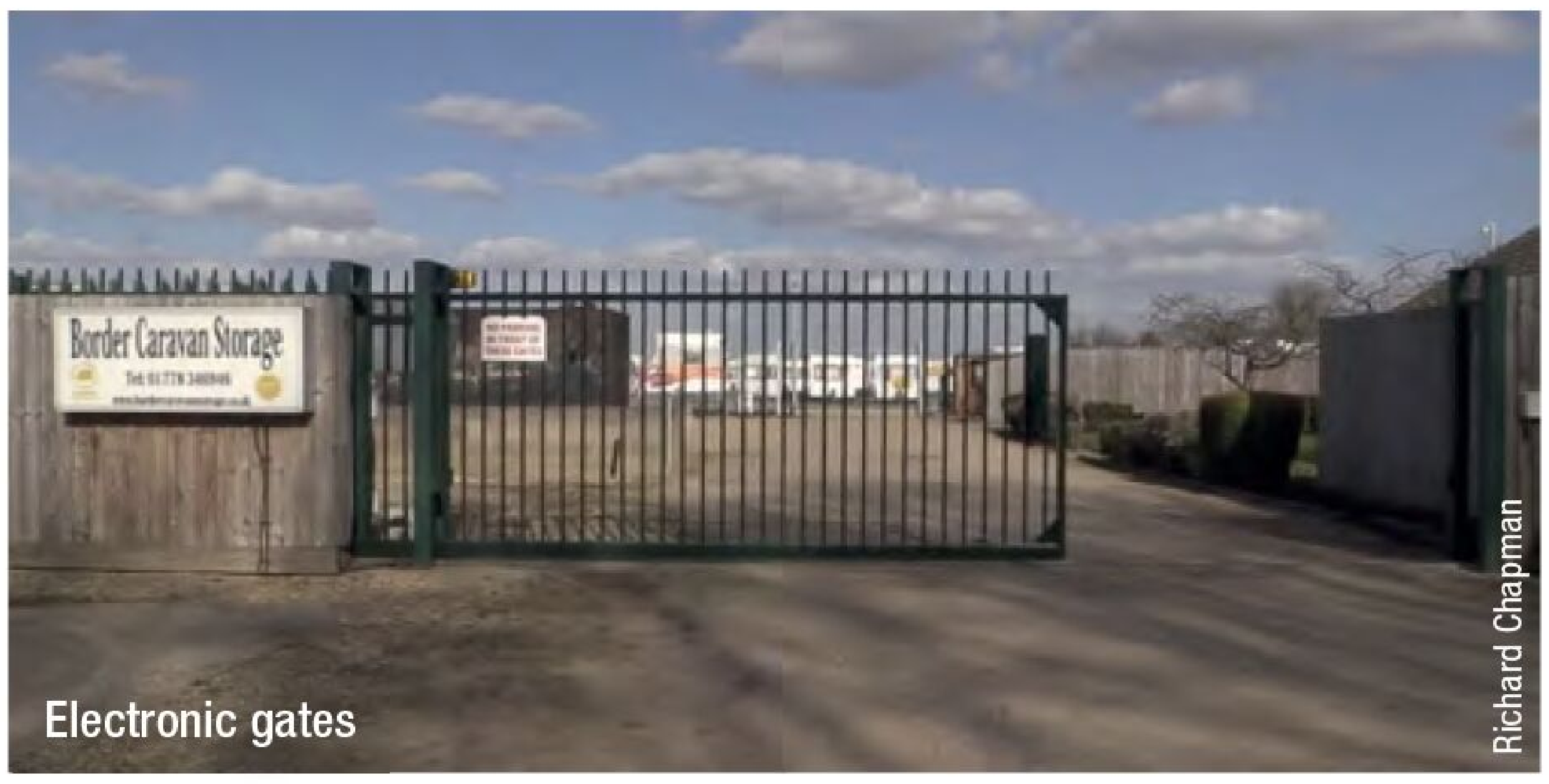
raymond orton/shutterstock

Pixabay

Check for CCTV

Norsted Manor Caravan Storage Site

CaSSOA



Electronic gates

Richard Chapman

Firstly, it allows the site owners to monitor the facility to make sure all is well. Secondly, if the worst happens, good CCTV will provide the police with clear and crisp imagery of the offenders, and will be compelling evidence to insurance companies should you need to make a claim.

✓ MOTION-ACTIVATED LIGHTING

Good lighting goes without saying, but leaving floodlights on all the time is actually not the answer. People don't notice when a light is left on permanently, but if the lights are off and then activated by motion, site owners know straight away that something is amiss and can investigate the cause. It is also more likely to scare off prospective thieves.

✓ SET SPACING REQUIREMENTS

Keeping a safe distance between pitches serves multiple purposes. It enables you to get the caravan in and out with ease, rather than spending your precious holiday time slowly manoeuvring it out at awkward angles. The chance of a collision occurring is then minimised. Correct spacing also helps in case a fire should start as it will reduce the risk of it spreading to neighbouring caravans.

✓ 'AIRLOCK' GATES

While a robust entrance gate is a must, the presence of 'airlock' gates is far more desirable. The caravan enters via the first gate, which should close before the second gate is opened. This creates a secure space between the outside of the storage site and the interior where caravans are pitched.

✓ STAFF ON SITE

Having CCTV installed, but no staff around to watch it, is counterproductive. When you visit a storage site, enquire as to whether the owners, or security personnel, are permanently on site. This is especially important after dark, when most theft and damage occurs.

✓ LINKS TO POLICE STATIONS

Should the worst happen, check the storage site has a direct link to the local police station. This enables officers to respond more quickly, increasing the chances of recovering your caravan should it be taken from the storage facility.

✓ INDOOR OR OUTDOOR

Some storage facilities offer indoor storage. This is by far the best option, but may not be available in a location that is close enough to your home.

AND THE COST?

This varies widely – it stands to reason that the sites with a high level of security, or indoor areas, charge more.

Costs vary by region – it costs more to store a caravan in the London area, for example, than in rural regions.

Some storage prices are based on the size of the caravan.

We found examples of sites charging £510 a year for outdoor storage, £710 for undercover storage, £300 for storage on grass, £420 for a hardstanding storage plot, and £832 for single-axle caravans and £975 for twin-axle caravans.

CaSSOA's website tells us that the average storage cost for a single-axle caravan is around £350. So, you seek out the best storage location for your convenience, investigate levels of security – and find one that suits your budget as well as the other criteria.

FOR MORE INFO

Go to **cassoa.co.uk** for more details and to find approved storage sites near you

CaSSOA
THE CARAVAN STORAGE SITE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Jargon buster

If you're a caravan novice, fine-tune your knowledge with this jargon-busting guide to ABS, GRP, MIRO and other common terms

Keith Shuttlewood/Alamy Stock Photo

SEVEN OR 13-PIN ELECTRICS

New caravans all now come with 13-pin electrics – one electrical socket with 13 pins attaches to the car and deals with all the electrical needs of your caravan. If your car or caravan is equipped to work with the old-fashioned electrics (two sockets, each containing seven pins), various adaptors are available for purchase.

THE 85% RULE

This is the recommended guideline for matching a car's weight to the caravan you can tow. Broadly, as long as your car's max braked towing limit is not exceeded, you should aim for your caravan and its contents to weigh 85% or less of the weight of your car.

When buying a caravan, the figures you need to use are the manufacturer's stated kerbweight of the car, and the stated maximum technically permissible laden mass figure (MTPLM), so the MTPLM is 85% of the kerbweight or less. Never tow a caravan that is heavier than the car – not only is it dangerous but it's likely to invalidate your insurance.

A-FRAME

The triangular frame at the front of a caravan, between the main body and the hitch. This is usually covered by a moulded fairing and home to the jockey wheel, tow hitch, handbrake and breakaway cable.

ABS

The plastic used to make caravan panels; short for acrylonitrile butadiene styrene. If this is damaged, it can cause water ingress.

ACTUAL LADEN WEIGHT

The total weight of a caravan and its contents when being towed. Must not exceed the MTPLM.

AL-KO ATC

Al-Ko's ATC Trailer Control is an anti-snaking control system for caravans. It works in a similar way to ESP systems in cars and monitors the lateral movement. If snaking is detected, it briefly applies the brakes to re-establish control of the caravan.

AL-KO CHASSIS

Many new caravans are built on galvanised chassis made by Al-Ko. The others are made by BPW.

AWNING

A tent-like structure of fabric over a supporting framework, which provides more living space.

It can be attached to the side of a caravan.

Outdoor Revolution

AWS – APPROVED WORKSHOP SCHEME

An approval scheme run by the National Caravan Council (NCC) for engineers working on caravans.

BE

See driving licences.

BERTHS

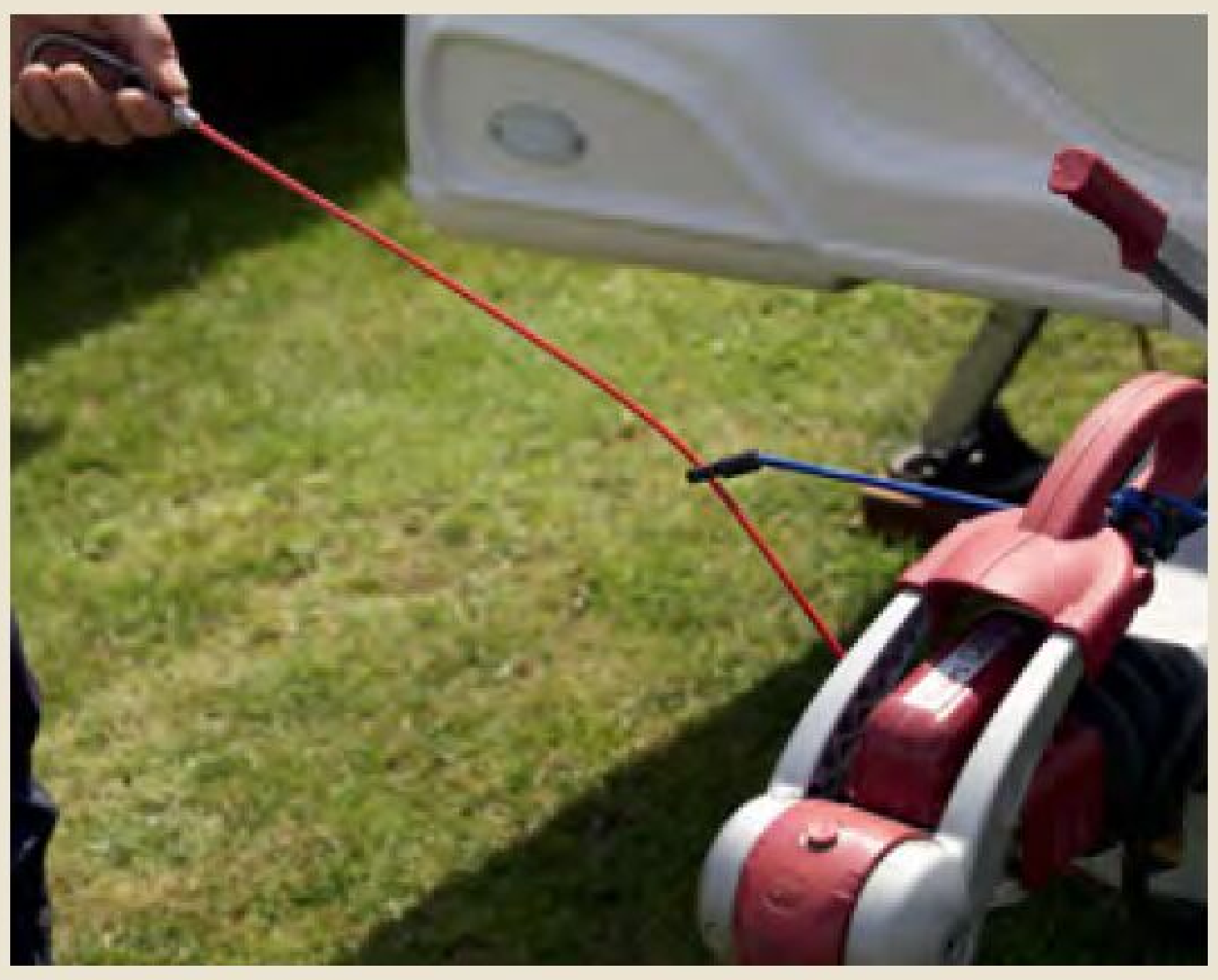
The number of beds in a caravan.

BLOWN-AIR HEATING

A type of heating found on modern caravans.

Warm air is circulated by a fan through ducting to heat the interior.

BREAKAWAY CABLE



A thin steel cable that links the caravan handbrake to the towball, providing a secondary coupling. If the caravan becomes detached from the car, this breakaway cable will operate the caravan handbrake before the cable breaks, bringing the caravan to a halt. The fitting and use of this safety device is a legal requirement on modern braked trailers.

BUTANE

You can use two different types of LPG gas in a caravan for cooking, and to operate the fridge when you don't have access to mains electricity. Calor's blue cylinders are butane – they give a very slight energy advantage over propane and are fine if you only caravan in warm weather.

CASSETTE BLIND

Roller blind fitted as part of the window assembly, often with a flyscreen.

CASSETTE TOILET

A form of chemical toilet where the waste holding tank can be accessed from outside the caravan, and removed for emptying without having to transport the whole toilet to the emptying point.

CASSETTE TOILET CHEMICALS

Needed to help keep cassette toilets functioning properly and smelling fresh. Generally, a pink chemical goes in the top tank, lubricating the flush system, and a blue or green chemical goes into the waste tank. This breaks down waste matter and toilet paper.

CASSOA

Caravan Storage Site Owners' Association, a nationally recognised body overseeing security measures at caravan storage facilities.

CDP

This stands for chemical disposal point. It's the place on a campsite where you empty the waste-holding cassette of your toilet and rinse it out.

CHASSIS PLATE

Often near the door, displaying the VIN number and usually information on the caravan weight. If this is missing, be wary of buying.

CHEMICAL TOILET

A self-contained toilet, where the waste material is held in a sealed tank for periodic emptying. Special chemical fluid added to the tank breaks down the waste, and keeps the system odour-free.

CL OR CS

A small campsite, usually taking a maximum of five units. Some have toilet facilities and hook-ups while others have no facilities. A Certificated Location (CL) is approved by the Caravan and Motorhome Club and a Certificated Site (CS) is a site approved by the Camping and Caravanning Club.

CORNER STEADY

The 'windable' jack built into the corner of a caravan, which is used to stabilise it while in use.

DELAMINATION

The separation of the bonded layers of a sandwich construction panel (most often floor or wall), usually due to poor binding during manufacture, or as a result of water ingress.

DINETTE

A seating area consisting of a pair (or more) of facing seats, with a (usually removable) table in between, which can often be converted into a bed.

CRIS CHECK

Like an HPI check for your car, the Central Registration and Identification Scheme tells you if your potential purchase has any problems you need to worry about, such as previous theft, outstanding finance or insurance issues. Modern caravans are marked with a unique 17-digit identity number that is registered centrally.

DRIVING LICENCES

Changes to licence regulations in 2021 mean that all drivers can now tow a trailer or caravan weighing up to 3,500kg without an additional test. If you haven’t towed before, we recommend taking a course. Category BE on your licence allows you to drive a vehicle with a Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) of 3,500kg. The size of the trailer depends on the BE ‘valid from’ date on your licence. If this date is before January 19, 2013, you can tow any size of trailer within the towing limits of the vehicle. However, if it is on or after January 19, 2013, you can only tow a trailer with a Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass (MTPLM) of up to 3,500kg.

ELEVATING ROOF

A feature of some caravans, also called a pop-top. It can provide greater headroom on site, but gives a lower profile when towing, thus improving fuel economy, access to parking, and ease of storage.

FLAME FAILURE DEVICE

Gas-powered appliances in caravans should have one of these; it minimises the escape of unburnt gas into the ’van, if a flame accidentally goes out.

FULL-SERVICE PITCH

A pitch that includes a fresh water supply, waste water disposal, mains electricity, and often a TV connection for added convenience and comfort.

GAS LOCKER

A cupboard, accessible only from the outside of the caravan, where gas bottles are stored. This is usually at the front of the caravan under the windows, though there are exceptions.

MAINS HOOK-UP

This is the campsite’s socket into which you insert your caravan’s mains power cable plug. Some campsites have a hook-up on every pitch. Others have posts supplying two or more sockets. All new caravans are supplied with mains cables; the usual length of these is 25 metres, which is sufficient for the distance from pitch to power supply on most campsites.

IMPORTANT
21 22

GREY WATER

Used water from shower and taps. This collects in a tank that must be emptied at a dedicated point.

GROSS TRAIN WEIGHT

Also known as ‘combined weight’. This is the total laden weight of the car and caravan, or ‘outfit’.

It should not exceed the sum of the caravan’s MTPLM and the towcar’s gross vehicle weight.

GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT

The weight of the vehicle laden to its maximum, as laid down by the vehicle manufacturer.

GRP

Glass-reinforced plastic, often used to make the curved mouldings on the front and rear of a caravan. It is more resistant to dints than aluminium, the other main material used for caravan side walls.

HARDSTANDING

A gravel, Tarmac, concrete or other hard surface of a campsite pitch. Preferable in wet or muddy conditions, though you’ll need a grass area alongside for an awning.

HITCH

This attaches your caravan to the car’s towball.

HITCHLOCK

A security device that prevents the caravan hitch being connected to (or removed from) a towball.

HOOK-UP (EHU)

A facility on a pitch to connect a caravan to the mains electric supply (see mains hook-up above).

JOCKEY WHEEL

The small wheel at the front of a caravan used to support the forward end of the caravan and assist manoeuvring while not hitched up.

KERBWEIGHT

The manufacturer-defined empty weight of a vehicle.

LEISURE BATTERY

A 12V battery that powers accessories in the caravan. Available in various ampere/hour ratings, typically, from 60Ah to 110Ah.

LOAD INDEX

A number marked on the sidewall of tyres that indicates their maximum load-carrying capacity.

MANUFACTURER’S BRAKED TOWING LIMIT

The maximum weight of braked trailer a vehicle will tow, as laid down by the car’s maker.

MIRO (MASS IN RUNNING ORDER)

This is the unladen weight of the caravan before you load it with all your holiday kit. The term ‘ex-works weight’ usually applies to the weight of a new caravan with standard fixtures.

This is different from MIRO (Mass in Running Order), which includes additional items like fluids and equipment necessary for driving.

MOTOR MOVER
An electronic device for manoeuvring a caravan when it is not hitched up.

MTPLM
Maximum technically permissible laden mass. With all your equipment, food, clothes, etc, loaded on board, the weight of the caravan must not exceed this figure when being towed.

NEARSIDE
The side nearest the kerb when towing in the UK.

NOSEWEIGHT
The weight imposed by the caravan on your car's towball, also known as the static vertical load. Car manufacturers should quote the ideal weight to be imposed on your car's towball and, for safe towing, you should make sure this weight is adhered to.

OFFSIDE
The side of a caravan opposite a UK-spec caravan's entrance door.

OUTFIT
A caravan and its towing vehicle when considered as a single unit.

OVERRUN BRAKES
The basic braking system used by caravans. When the car slows, the hitch head is compressed and operates a rod that runs to the caravan axle, then to the two cables that operate the brakes on both wheels. This is to prevent the caravan 'pushing the towcar along' when descending hills.

PDI
Stands for pre-delivery inspection, undertaken before a caravan leaves the manufacturer's premises to ensure that any faults are found.

PROPANE
An alternative to butane for powering your gas hob/oven and your caravan fridge while you're neither hooked up to car electrics nor a mains hook-up. Propane has significant advantages over butane, because it can be used effectively in sub-zero temperatures. If you are touring in colder climates or through the winter months, it can be advantageous to have propane.

ROOFLIGHT

Richard Chapman

A transparent panel in the roof of the caravan that can be opened to provide additional ventilation. It's important to always make sure these are closed before you set off on the road. On some occasions, an air-conditioning unit may be fitted here in place of the rooflight.

SINGLE-AXLE CARAVANS
Tourers with two wheels. Easier to manoeuvre as they can turn on the spot. Twin-axle caravans are often larger and favoured by those who site their caravans for the entire season.

SLIDE-OUT
Some caravans feature a slide-out side, which is designed to increase interior living space.

SNAKING
Instability on the road where the caravan moves from side to side. This can be caused by high winds, other vehicles overtaking and by poor caravan loading or speeding.

STABILISER
A device to minimise instability, controlling the ease with which the caravan hitch pivots on the towball.

THATCHAM APPROVAL
Alarms, trackers, safes and other security equipment are rigorously tested by this organisation and given a stamp of approval.

TOWBALL
The bare metal fastening on the back of your car that directly connects to the caravan, allowing you to tow. These must be fitted by an expert.

TOWING HITCH
The 'cup' part of the caravan that sits on the car's towball, connecting the two before towing.

This is also the point at which you measure the caravan's noseweight.

TWIN-AXLE CARAVANS
Most caravans have one axle, and two wheels – see single-axle. A twin-axle caravan has four wheels and is more stable than a single-axle model; it is less likely to develop a snaking movement. It is also considered easier to reverse because the response to the car's steering is slower.

USER PAYLOAD
The difference between the MTPLM and the MIRO. Added equipment can't exceed this weight.

VIN NUMBER
See CRiS. A caravan registration contains useful information, etched on windows, printed on registration documents and displayed on the chassis. The first two letters, SG, indicate it's a British caravan. A letter then indicates the caravan make (eg Swift is D), and a letter S or T to indicate single or twin-axle.

WATER INGRESS
When water gets into a caravan or its wall/floor/roof panels, it can be difficult to repair.

WET LOCKER
An area isolated from the rest of the caravan, for the storage of dirty or wet items.

WHEEL LOCK (INTEGRAL)
This is a bolt that goes through the wheel and onto a receiver on the caravan axle. There are two available – one for Al-Ko chassis and one for BPW chassis.

Dealer directory

Take a look at our at-a-glance guide to dealers, what they stock and other services they offer. Choose one near you and start shopping for your perfect caravan!

KEY TO SYMBOLS

✓	Yes
✗	No
✆	By arrangement
🖱	Online
0	Own vehicles only

BUYING ADVICE

VIEWING A CARAVAN

Always make time to have a good look around any caravan you're considering. Take a checklist and make sure you are prepared. It's the perfect time to ask a dealer any questions, too, so make a list of those before you arrive. This is a big decision so getting the facts is crucial.

		Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
IRELAND						
Mike Brown Caravans Kerdiffstown, Naas, Co Kildare W91 CD32 ☎ 00353 458 74446 mikebrowncaravans.com		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Curragh Caravans Ballymany Manor, Moorfield, Newbridge, Co Kildare W12 FY07 ☎ 00353 454 61889 curraghcaravans.ie		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Newbridge Caravans Standhouse Road, Newbridge, Co Kildare W12 ND60 ☎ 00353 454 36616 newbridgecaravans.ie		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Charles Camping Main Street, Blessington, Co Wicklow W91 C528 ☎ 00353 458 65351 charlescamping.ie		✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
NORTHERN IRELAND						
DorVic Caravans Hillhead Road, Ballyclare, Co Antrim BT39 9LP ☎ 02893 352677 dorviccaravans.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Hagans Motorhomes Templepatrick Road, Ballyclare, Co Antrim BT39 0RA ☎ 02893 340200 hagansmotorhomes.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Lisburn Caravan Centre North Street, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, Co Antrim BT28 2ER ☎ 02892 650003 lisburncaravancentre.com	ADRIA COACHMAN	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Downshire Camping & Caravans Hall Road, Waringstown, Craigavon, Co Armagh BT66 7ST ☎ 02840 622217 downshirecaravans.com	ERIBA KNAUS WEINSBERG	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Bann Caravans Scarva Road, Banbridge, Co Down BT32 3AR ☎ 02840 669020 banncaravans.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
LPC Caravans & Camping Balloo Place, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7BP ☎ 02891 465551 lpccaravans.co.uk	B Elddis SWIFT XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Thompson Leisure Rowantree Road, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1NN ☎ 02892 693999 thompsonleisure.com	B	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Tricam Caravans Rowantree Road, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1NN ☎ 02892 690172 tricamcaravans.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Cookstown Caravans Cloghog Road, Cookstown, Co Tyrone BT80 8RN ☎ 02886 763936 cookstowncaravans.com	B Elddis SWIFT XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
NORTHERN SCOTLAND						
Dyce Caravans Ltd Pitmedden Road, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire AB21 0EY ☎ 01224 722227 dycecaravans.co.uk	ADRIA BAILEY COACHMAN	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Dee Valley Caravans Drumoak, Banchory, Aberdeenshire AB31 5AU ☎ 01330 811351 deevalleycaravans.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
GNR Sutherland Edderton, Near Tain, Highland IV19 1JY ☎ 01862 821253 sutherlandcaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
S&D Harper Ltd Edgar Road, Elgin, Inverness-shire IV30 6YQ ☎ 01343 547522 sdharper.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Perthshire Caravans Dundee Road, Perth, Perth and Kinross PH2 7SR ☎ 01821 670212 perthshire-caravans.co.uk	BAILEY B COACHMAN Elddis SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Struans Leisure Crieff Road, Perth, Perth and Kinross PH1 2SJ ☎ 01738 606393 struansleisure.com	ADRIA	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Murray Caravans Near Dunmore Airth, Falkirk, Stirlingshire FK2 8RY ☎ 01324 831385 murraycaravans.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
SOUTHERN SCOTLAND						
Halleys Burnhouse Caravans Lochlibo Road, Beith, Ayrshire, KA15 1LF ☎ 01560 484859 halleycaravans.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
JG Trading Co Annan Road, Eastriggs, Annan, Dumfries and Galloway DG12 6TF ☎ 01461 40791 hobbysales.co.uk	Hobby LMC	✗	✓		✓	✗
Kingdom Caravans Feregait Road, Kincardine, Fife FK10 4QR ☎ 01259 731955 kingdomcaravans.com		✓	✗	✓	✓	✗

BUYING ADVICE

CHECK THE WARRANTY

Even with brand-new caravans, things can still go wrong. Check what the warranty covers, and remember that you'll probably have to return the caravan to the dealer you bought it from for any servicing. If you're planning on going abroad, ask what the procedure is if anything were to go wrong while you're away.

Dealer	☎	Website	Brands	Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
Kirkcaldy Caravans Randolph Place, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 2YX	01592 651969	kirkcaldycaravans.com	B, Elddis, Swift, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Wallace Caravans Thornton Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 3NW	01592 774265	wallacecaravans.co.uk	Bailey, Elddis	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Aspire Caravans (County Leisure) Cambusnethan Street, Wishaw, Lanarkshire ML2 8PZ	03331 233460	aspirecaravans.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Duncan Caravans Wishaw Road, Wishaw, Lanarkshire ML2 8ES	01698 374224	duncancaravans.co.uk	Bailey, Swift	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Knowepark Caravans and Motorhomes Hardie Road, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 8BA	01506 411827	kpcm.co.uk	Coachman, Eriba, Swift	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

NORTHEAST ENGLAND

Dealer	☎	Website	Brands	Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
Robsons Caravans & Motorhomes Durham Road, Wolsingham, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL13 3HU	01388 527242	robsonsofwolsingham.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Marquis Motorhomes & Caravans Durham Road, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH3 2QZ	01914 922480	marquisleisure.co.uk	Adria, Coachman	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Kimberley Caravans Burtree Gate, Darlington, Co Durham DL2 2XZ	01325 383333	kimberleycaravans.co.uk	Coachman, Swift	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Durham Caravans Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham, Co Durham DH1 1TN	01913 830142	durhamcaravans.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Ashington Caravans and Motorhomes Castle Island Way, North Seaton, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 0XL	01670 522288	ashcaravans.net		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
North East Caravans Ltd North Seaton Industrial Estate, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 0YB	01670 812001	northeastcaravans.co.uk	Elddis, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Leisure Caravans Fencehouse, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear DH4 6DU	01913 859816	leisurecaravans.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
United British Caravans Sandy Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear NE3 5HE	01912 363156	unitedbritishcaravans.co.uk	Bailey, B, Coachman, Elddis, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Caravan Source Double Row, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 0PP	07877 116675	caravansource.org		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

NORTHWEST ENGLAND

Dealer	☎	Website	Brands	Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
Wards Caravans Chester Road, Chester, Cheshire CH4 0DS	01244 794694	wardscaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Spinney Cheshire Knutsford Road, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire CW4 8HJ	01477 535808	spinney.co.uk	Bailey, Coachman, Swift	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leisure Sales Brereton Green, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1SD	01477 535264	leisuresales.co.uk	Bailey, Swift	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Yourstyle Leisure Nat Lane, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 3BS	01606 664880	yourstyleleisure.co.uk	Knaus, Weinsberg	✗	✓	✓	✆	✓
Kendal Caravans Shap Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9LF	01539 823659	kendalcaravans.co.uk	Swift	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Adventure Leisure Vehicles Clock Garage Industrial Estate, Tebay, Cumbria CA10 3SS	01539 624141	adventurelv.com	Eriba, Knaus, [illegible]	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Bardsea Leisure Priory Road, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 9QE	01229 584712	bardsealeisure.co.uk	Bailey, Coachman	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
North Western Caravans Stanley Green Trading Estate, Cheadle Hulme, Greater Manchester SK8 6QE	01614 866055	northwesterncaravans.co.uk	Swift	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Westfield Caravans Chorley Road, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 7XQ	01253 301505	westfieldcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Whitfords Caravan Centre Healey Wood Industrial Estate, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 2HP	01282 420029	whitfordscaravancentre.co.uk	Coachman, Elddis, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Callender Caravans Ltd Scotland Road, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 9RF	01524 732224	callendercaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Lancaster Motorhomes & Caravans Slyne Road, Bolton-le-Sands, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 8AL	01524 822911	lancastermotorhomesandcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Stewart Longton Caravans Friday Street, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 0AH	01257 279921	stewartlongton.co.uk	Swift	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Go-Pods Southport Road, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire PR8 5LF	01234 816832	go-pods.co.uk	Go-Pods	✗	✆	✓	✓	✗
Red Lion Caravan Centre Ltd Southport Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire PR8 5LF	01704 889973	rlcaravans.co.uk	Eriba, Go-Pods, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Burlingham Caravans Ltd A6 Bypass Road, Preston, Lancashire PR3 1PJ	01995 605728	burlinghamcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Campbells Caravans and Motorhomes Watkin Lane, Preston, Lancashire PR5 5RD	01772 627627	campbellscaravans.co.uk	Bailey, Coachman	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗

BUYING ADVICE
AVOID TEMPTATION

You'll often spot amazing end-of-season deals at shows and on forecourts, but don't buy the wrong caravan just because it seems like a good deal. In the long run, it could prove a costly mistake if you end up having to trade it in for the right caravan.

		Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
Preston Caravans & Motorhomes Blackpool Road, Preston, Lancashire PR4 0XL ☎ 01772 685949 🖱 prestoncm.co.uk	B Elddis SWIFT WEINSBERG XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Caravan Warehouse Wigan Bradley Hall Trading Estate, Wigan, Lancashire WN6 0XQ ☎ 01257 427979 🖱 caravanwarehousewigan.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Standish Caravans Preston Road, Standish, Wigan, Lancashire WN6 0QD ☎ 01257 425119 🖱 standishcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Stewart Longton Caravans Preston Road, Standish, Wigan, Lancashire WN6 0QD ☎ 01257 425119 🖱 stewartlongton.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
YORKSHIRE						
Yorkshire Coast Caravans Lancaster Road, Bridlington, East Yorkshire YO15 3QY ☎ 01262 400733 🖱 yorkshirecoastcaravans.co.uk	BAILEY COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Wandahome South Cave Ltd Brough Road, Brough, East Yorkshire HU15 2DB ☎ 01430 424342 🖱 wandahome.online	BAILEY COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Motorhomes and Caravans Ltd Reservoir Road, Hull, East Yorkshire HU6 7QD ☎ 01482 448157 🖱 motorhomesltd.com	Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ropers Leisure Gatherley Road, Catterick, North Yorkshire DL10 7SL ☎ 01748 818666 🖱 ropersleisure.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	🖱	✗
Leisureworld Catterick Catterick Bridge, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 7JB ☎ 01748 818391 🖱 leisureworldgroup.com	B COACHMAN Elddis SWIFT XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Beechwood Leisure Beechwood House, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 4NJ ☎ 01845 523500 🖱 beechwoodleisure.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Yorkshire Caravans & Motorhomes Doncaster Road, Bawtry, South Yorkshire DN10 6DG ☎ 01302 710366 🖱 yorkshirecaravans.com	ADRIA BAILEY COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Adwick Caravans Toll Bar Garage, Toll Bar, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN5 0QN ☎ 01302 872222 🖱 adwickcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
TY Caravans Ltd Great North Road, Woodlands, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN6 7SU ☎ 01302 330616 🖱 tycaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Sheffield Caravans Chesterfield Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S26 4TL ☎ 01142 694027 🖱 qualitycaravans.com	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Albion Caravans Leeds Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 9SX ☎ 01274 611867 🖱 albion-caravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Caravans North Cleckheaton Road, Low Moor, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD12 0HS ☎ 07860 366888 🖱 freedomcaravansnorth.co.uk	Freedom	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
SFM Caravans Spring Holes Lane, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD13 3RA ☎ 01422 832257 🖱 sfmcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Wandahome (Knottingley) Ltd Great North Road, Knottingley, West Yorkshire WF11 0AE ☎ 01977 633130 🖱 wandahome.co.uk	BAILEY B COACHMAN Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
A1 Sales & Storage (CCS) Great North Road, South Milford, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS25 5LQ ☎ 07874 919703 🖱 caravansalesco.com		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Leeds Caravan Centre A64 York Road, Scholes, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS15 4NG ☎ 01132 329212 🖱 leedscaravancentre.co.uk	BAILEY XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Kenmore Caravans Ltd Huddersfield Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire WF14 9HS ☎ 01924 498311 🖱 kenmorecaravans.co.uk	COACHMAN Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
WEST MIDLANDS						
South Shropshire Caravans Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9QH ☎ 01588 674977 🖱 southshropshiretouringcaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Capes and McLeod Leisure LTD Uckington, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4UL ☎ 01952 740899 🖱 cmleisure.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Salop Leisure Ermstrey, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 6QS ☎ 01743 282400 🖱 salopleisure.co.uk	COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Burton Caravan Centre Burton Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3DP ☎ 01283 544134 🖱 burtoncaravancentre.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Black Country Caravans Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire B64 7DA ☎ 01384 413336 🖱 blackcountrycaravans.co.uk	ADRIA BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
The Caravan Place Watling Street, Gailey, Staffordshire ST19 5PP ☎ 01902 700222 🖱 thecaravanplace.com		✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Spinney Staffordshire Stonewall Place, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 6NR ☎ 01782 622581 🖱 spinney.co.uk	BAILEY COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Freedom Caravans Ltd Main Road, Little Haywood, Stafford, Staffordshire ST18 0TR ☎ 01889 883088 🖱 freedomcaravans.com	Freedom	✗	✆	✓	✓	✗
Active Leisure Leek New Road, Milton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST2 7EF ☎ 01782 538853 🖱 caravansbyactiveleisure.co.uk	ADRIA Elddis KNAUS WEINSBERG XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Lowe & Rhodes Leisure Ltd Victoria Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 2HU ☎ 01782 212871 🖱 loweandrhodes.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

BUYING ADVICE

BE AWARE OF LAUNCH SEASON

Most caravan manufacturers launch their new season's range in June or July, with the first vehicles arriving on dealer forecourts a couple of months later. September is a good time to get a deal on last-season models while October is the best time to order the latest ones.

		Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
Tamworth Caravans Planters Garden Centre, Trinity Road, Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 2EY ☎ 01827 262666 tamworthcaravans.com		✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cosford Caravans and Motorhomes Newport Road, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire WV7 3NA ☎ 01902 374170 cosfordcaravans.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Raymond James Caravans Carlyon Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1JE ☎ 02476 474747 raymondjamescaravans.co.uk	BAILEY, B, COACHMAN, Elddis, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Rock Caravans and Motorhomes Watling Street, Witherley, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1RE ☎ 01827 722422 rockcaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
West Midland Caravans and Motorhomes Spring Hill Industrial Estate, Coventry, Warwickshire CV7 8HN ☎ 01676 541515 westmidlandcaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Spinney Warwickshire (Broadlane) Warwick Road, Leek Wootton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV35 7RD ☎ 01926 858880 spinney.co.uk	BAILEY, COACHMAN, SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	
Coachbuilt GB Kelsey Close, Attleborough Fields Industrial Estate, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 6RS ☎ 02476 341196 coachbuiltgb.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
River Motorhomes Kingsbury Road, Sutton Coldfield, Worcestershire B76 9EE ☎ 03308 080805 rivermotorhomes.co.uk	TRIGANO	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Edwards Motorhomes Main Road, Kempsey, Worcester, Worcestershire WR5 3PA ☎ 01905 829000 edwardsmotorhomes.co.uk	ADRIA	✗	✓	✓	🖱	✗
EAST MIDLANDS						
Don Amott Leisure Kingdom Egginton Road, Derby, Derbyshire DE65 5FJ ☎ 01283 732193 leisurekingdom.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Glossop Caravans Main A57, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 6JF ☎ 01457 868011 glossopcaravans.co.uk	B, COACHMAN, Elddis, ERIBA, SWIFT, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Blackwood Leisure Vehicles Mount Pleasant Road, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 9JQ ☎ 01283 819620 blackwoodleisure.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
B&M Trading Ashby Road, Sinope, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3AY ☎ 01530 837744 bmtradingukltd.co.uk	FENDT CARAVAN, Hobby, LMC	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Ryedale Caravan & Leisure Ltd Ashby Road West, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 9EF ☎ 01509 508951 ryedaleleisure.com	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Sawley Caravans Tamworth Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham, Leicestershire NG10 3AE ☎ 01159 729608 sawleycaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Grantham's Spittlegate Level, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 7UH ☎ 01476 560599 granthamcaravans.co.uk	BAILEY, COACHMAN, KNAUS, SWIFT, WEINSBERG	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Couplands Caravans Lincoln (Brayford Leisure) Moor Lane, Lincoln, Lincolnshire LN6 9BW ☎ 01522 686996 couplandscaravans.co.uk	BAILEY, B, COACHMAN, Elddis, SWIFT, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
TB Motorhomes Station Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln, Lincolnshire LN6 3QY ☎ 08003 165354 tb-motorhomesltd.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✗	
Couplands Caravans Louth Northolme Road, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 0YZ ☎ 01507 603496 couplandscaravans.co.uk	BAILEY, B, COACHMAN, Elddis, SWIFT, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Inglewood Caravans North Moor Road, Messingham, Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire DN17 3PY ☎ 01724 762123 inglewoodleisure.co.uk	Elddis, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Torksey Caravans Ltd Lincoln Road, Torksey, Lincolnshire LN1 2EL ☎ 01427 718226 qualitycaravans.com	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Caravan Depot ☎ 01623 397888 caravandepot.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Mansfield Caravans Ltd Warsop Old Station, Mansfield Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG20 0EA ☎ 01623 594943 mansfieldcaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Fuller Leisure Lowdham Road, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG14 7ER ☎ 01159 664401 fullerleisure.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✆
Kimberley Caravans Eastwood Road, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG16 2HX ☎ 01159 382401 kimberleycaravans.co.uk	COACHMAN, SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Lowdhams Lowdham Road, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG14 7ES ☎ 01159 663838 lowdhams.com	AIRSTREAM, ERIBA, SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grantham's Jockey Lane, Elkesley, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 8BN ☎ 01777 838193 granthamcaravans.co.uk	BAILEY, COACHMAN, KNAUS, SWIFT, WEINSBERG	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Couplands Caravans Worksop (Robinsons) Gateford Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire S81 7AT ☎ 01909 475220 couplandscaravans.co.uk	BAILEY, B, COACHMAN, Elddis, SWIFT, XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
EAST OF ENGLAND						
Pope's Caravans Potton Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 0EL ☎ 01767 312307 popescaravans.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
MB Caravans Watling Street, Kensworth, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 3QT ☎ 01582 840147 mbcaravans.co.uk	FENDT CARAVAN, LMC, TABBERT	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cambridge Caravans Harlton Road, Little Eversden, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB23 1HB ☎ 01223 265553 cambridgecaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

BUYING ADVICE

KEEP IT GENERIC

As people usually trade their caravans in for a newer model at some point down the line, it's worth choosing options with generic appeal. Features like an awning are worth having, while neon-green curtains are probably best avoided if you think you might trade it in.

		Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
Crowland Caravan & Camping Carrington's Drive South, Crowland, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE6 0BZ ☎ 01733 210186 crowlandcaravansandcamping.co.uk	B Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Pioneer Caravans Thorney Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE6 7UB ☎ 01733 222244 pioneercaravans.co.uk	ADRIA BAILEY COACHMAN	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Venture Caravans Cambridge Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 0JX ☎ 01462 354414 venture-caravans.com	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✆
MG Caravans York Way, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 5HL ☎ 01763 252960 mgcaravans.com	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
John Wicks Caravans Lynn Road, Grimston, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE32 1AG ☎ 01485 601212 johnwickscaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
McDonnell Caravans Lynn Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE32 1QJ ☎ 01553 636243 mcdonnellcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Gobur Caravans Ltd Peacock Way, Melton Constable, Norfolk NR24 2BY ☎ 01263 860031 goburcaravans.co.uk	Gobur	✗	0	✗	✗	✗
Downtide Caravans Cromer Road, Erpingham, Norwich, Norfolk NR11 7QE ☎ 01263 768813 downtide.com	ADRIA B Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Norwich Caravans Cromer Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR10 5LY ☎ 01603 755489 norwich-caravans.co.uk	COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Beez Leisure Telford Way, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 1HU ☎ 01842 337180 beezleisure.co.uk	KNAUS WEINSBERG	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Elite Caravans Northampton Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN7 3DW ☎ 01604 858331 elitecaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Spinney Northants (White Arches) Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 6AY ☎ 01933 353818 spinney.co.uk	BAILEY COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Venture Caravans Watling Street, Watford Gap, Northamptonshire NN6 7UJ ☎ 01327 530273 venture-caravans.com	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✆
Marquis Motorhomes & Caravans Farthing Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5AP ☎ 01743 747675 marquisleisure.co.uk	ADRIA Elddis	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Sharman Caravans Ltd Colchester Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 4RU ☎ 01473 713284 sharmancaravans.co.uk	COACHMAN	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Farnham Leisure Farnham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1LE ☎ 01728 602858 farnhamleisure.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
SOUTHEAST ENGLAND						
Reading Caravan Centre Church Lane, Reading, Berkshire RG7 1HB ☎ 01189 888111 swindoncaravansgroup.com	BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Sussex Caravan Centre Cowden, East Grinstead, East Sussex TN8 7EA ☎ 01342 851393 sussexcaravancentre.co.uk	COACHMAN Elddis SWIFT XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Caravan Tech Sales London Road, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7PN ☎ 01580 860260 caravantech.co.uk	BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Andrew James Motorhomes Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 4JU ☎ 01424 612787 andrewjamesmotorhomes.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Kool Classics North Street, Hellingly, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 4DU ☎ 07882 152422 koolclassics.com	ERIBA	✗	Eriba	✓	✓	✗
Chichester Caravans London Road, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 2EA ☎ 01825 764151 chichester-caravans.co.uk	BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Cranham Leisure Maldon Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 2JP ☎ 01245 381382 cranham.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Homestead Caravans and Outdoor Leisure Thorpe Road (B1033), Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO16 9JN ☎ 01255 830229 homesteadcaravans.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Cranham Leisure Old Gailey Park, Upminster, Essex RM14 1TJ ☎ 01277 222444 cranham.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
South Coast Caravans Branches Lane, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 6FH ☎ 01794 341186 southcoastcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Viscount Leisure West End Road, Southampton, Hampshire SO31 8BN ☎ 02380 405122 viscountleisure.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Winchester Caravans & Motorhomes Main Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1TD ☎ 01962 714844 winchestercaravans.com	BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Canterbury Caravans Sales Island Road, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4JD ☎ 01227 712777 canterburycaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Kingswood Caravans Gravelly Bottom Road, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3NU ☎ 01622 842096 kingswood-caravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Lee Davey Caravans Ltd A20 East Street, Maidstone, Kent ME17 1HN ☎ 01622 859301 leedaveycaravans.co.uk	ADRIA BAILEY COACHMAN	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗

BUYING ADVICE

GO TO A SHOW

With so many different caravans on the market to choose from, it's a good idea to start your search by visiting a show or two, where you'll be able to see them all in one place and compare like-for-like. You could also attend one of our Warners Shows, where you'll meet like-minded caravan enthusiasts **warners-shows.co.uk**

		Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
Collier Street Caravans Green Lane, Collier Street, Marden, Kent TN12 9RB ☎ 07565 682750 collierstreetcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Songhurst Caravan Sales London Road, West Malling, Kent ME19 5AU ☎ 01732 845399 songhurstcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
South East Caravan Centre Belmont Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1QP ☎ 01227 772373 southeastcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Bicester Caravan & Leisure London Road (A41), Bicester, Oxfordshire OX26 6RA ☎ 01869 242343 bicestercaravanandleisure.co.uk	B COACHMAN Elddis SWIFT XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✆
Oxford Caravan Centre Oxford Road (A418), Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 2LH ☎ 01844 339566 swindoncaravansgroup.com	BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Marquis Motorhomes & Caravans Station Approach, Gomshall, Guildford, Surrey GU5 9NX ☎ 01483 203335 marquisleisure.co.uk	ADRIA COACHMAN Elddis	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Meridian Motorhomes & Caravans Old Park Lane, Bosham, West Sussex PO18 8EX ☎ 01243 572672 meridianmotorhomes.com	Freedom	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Chichester Caravans Main Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8RL ☎ 01243 377441 chichester-caravans.co.uk	BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Sussex Caravan Centre London Road, Ashington, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 3BT ☎ 01903 893666 sussexcaravancentre.co.uk	COACHMAN Elddis SWIFT XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
T Giles Caravans Whitebreads Farm, Stane Street, Slinfold, West Sussex RH13 0RE ☎ 01403 251689 tgilescaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
SOUTHWEST ENGLAND						
AJM Leisure Bristol Ltd Ash Lane, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4BY ☎ 01179 632861 ajmleisurecaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Kingswood Caravan Centre Ltd High Street, Bristol BS15 4AQ ☎ 01179 600205 kingswoodcaravans.net		✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Atlantic Caravans East Taphouse Industrial Estate, Doublebois, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 6LE ☎ 01579 321041 atlanticcaravans.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✆
Penrose Touring Scorrier, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 5BP ☎ 01209 820451 penrosetouring.co.uk	BAILEY COACHMAN	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Mid Devon Caravans Buston Cross, Crediton, Devon EX17 6LA ☎ 01363 82943 middevoncaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Exeter Caravan Centre London Road, Rockbeare, Exeter, Devon EX5 2FP ☎ 01404 822116 exetercaravancentre.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Marquis Motorhomes & Caravans Clyst Road, Sandygate, Exeter Devon EX2 7JL ☎ 01392 446250 marquisleisure.co.uk	Elddis	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Stowford Leisure West Down, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 8NU ☎ 01271 889339 stowfordcaravancentre.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Highbridge Caravan Centre Ltd Higher Brooks Plantation, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 6QZ ☎ 01626 832792 highbridgecaravans.co.uk	ADRIA COACHMAN BAILEY B Elddis ERIBA SWIFT TRIGANO XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Tamar Caravans & Motorhomes Marshall Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 1YB ☎ 01752 341133 tamarcaravancentre.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Charmouth Caravans Newlands Bridge, Charmouth, Dorset DT6 6QZ ☎ 01297 561231 charmouthcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Leisure First (Automotive Leisure) Fancy Road, Poole, Dorset BH12 4QZ ☎ 01202 600701 leisurefirst.com		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Blackmore Vale Leisure Sherborne Causeway, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9PX ☎ 01747 851497 bmvleisure.co.uk	ADRIA KNAUS SWIFT WEINSBERG	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
The Caravan Company Dorchester Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3HA ☎ 01202 888601 thecaravancompany.com		✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Chipping Sodbury Caravans Badminton Road, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire BS37 6LH ☎ 01454 318374 chippingsodburycaravans.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Golden Castle Caravans Tewkesbury Road, Twigworth, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL2 9PX ☎ 01452 730100 goldencastle.co.uk	COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Pearman Briggs Leisure Ltd Cheltenham Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL2 0JW ☎ 01452 524700 pearmanbriggs.co.uk	BAILEY B Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Forest of Dean Caravans Parkend, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 4JN ☎ 01594 562206 forestofdeancaravans.co.uk	BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Cotswold Edge Leisure Vehicles Evesham Road (A46), Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 7AS ☎ 01386 882866 cotswoldedge.co.uk	BAILEY B Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Blackdown Leisure Caravan Sales (Brean) Brean Farm, Brean Down Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2RR ☎ 01823 652761 blackdownleisure.co.uk	KNAUS WEINSBERG	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Northam Farm Caravan Sales Ltd South Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2SE ☎ 01278 751244 northamfarmcaravansales.co.uk	BAILEY B Elddis	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

BUYING ADVICE

STICK TO YOUR BUDGET

It's easy to see brand-new caravans and want to bite a dealer's hand off but it pays to exercise caution when it comes to spending your hard-earned cash. Yes, this can be a purchase that's tied up with emotion but you don't want to be eating baked beans for years because you've overcommitted yourself financially.

Dealer	Brands	Used only	Habitation servicing	Finance	Accessory shop	Overnight stay on site
Sedgemoor Caravans Edithmead Leisure Park, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA9 4HE ☎ 01278 553400 sedgemoorcaravans.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Highbridge Caravan Centre Ltd A38 Bristol Road, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4EX ☎ 01278 782725 highbridgecaravans.co.uk	BAILEY B ADRIA Elddis ERIBA SWIFT COACHMAN TRIGANO XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Davan Caravans & Motorhomes Goosey Lane, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS22 7XA ☎ 01934 524241 davan.co.uk	KNAUS SWIFT WEINSBERG	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Tilshead Caravans Ltd Stockbridge Road (A30), Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 1BS ☎ 01980 863636 tilshead-caravans.com	ADRIA COACHMAN	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Webbs Caravans Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6QX ☎ 01722 326111 webbsmotorcaravans.co.uk		✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Swindon Caravan Centre Greatfield, Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 8EQ ☎ 01793 772096 swindoncaravansgroup.com	ADRIA BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Wiltshire Caravans Headquarters Road, West Wilts Trading Estate, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 4JR ☎ 01373 752100 wiltshirecaravans.co.uk	B Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
WALES						
3 A's Leisure (Showground) Nantyci, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire SA33 5ES ☎ 01267 234459 3asleisure.co.uk	B COACHMAN Elddis ERIBA SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Threeways Motorhomes Ltd Faenol Avenue, Abergele, Conwy LL22 7HT ☎ 01745 827607 threewaysmotorhomes.co.uk	SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Conwy Caravans & Motorhomes Llanrwst Road, Glan Conwy, Conwy LL28 5ST ☎ 01492 582233 conwymotorhomes.co.uk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J & J Caravans Foryd Road, Kinmel Bay, Rhyl, Denbighshire LL18 5LR ☎ 01745 338333 jjcaravans.co.uk	Hobby	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Clwyd Caravan & Leisure Ltd The Green, Ruabon, Wrexham, Denbighshire LL14 6DP ☎ 01978 810091 clwydcaravans.com	B Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Spinney Flintshire Station Road, Deeside, Flintshire CH5 2TE ☎ 01244 830438 spinney.co.uk	BAILEY COACHMAN SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Newport Caravans Kings Parade, Newport, Gwent NP20 2DU ☎ 01633 843066 newportcaravans.com	ADRIA BAILEY B COACHMAN Elddis XPLORE	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Evans Caravan & Camping Ltd Pandy Garage, Chwilog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 6SQ ☎ 07810 041600 evanscaravanandcamping.co.uk	FENDT CARAVAN Hobby LMC	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Stowford Leisure Ely Valley Road, Coed Ely Tonyrefail, Porth, Mid Glamorgan CF39 8FP ☎ 01443 672333 stowfordsouthwales.co.uk	BAILEY SWIFT	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Tenby Tourers Crofty Showground, Llanteg, Pembrokeshire SA67 8QE ☎ 01834 831900 tenbytourers.co.uk	BAILEY	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗

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